



### MONDAY

## 20p

# LAND CRUISERS

### FOUR TO BE WON

TO ENTER PAGE 44

### MONDAY

## 20p

# PRETTY IN PINK

The hot colour for this summer

PAGE 18

### MONDAY

## 20p

# SASSENACHS SAVAGE SCOTLAND

PAGES 27 & 31

## £3bn carriers, but more sharing

# Robertson to shake up RAF and Navy

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE armed forces will have to share more facilities under a plan to streamline the Services that will be considered by a Cabinet committee this week.

The proposed defence shake-up includes the promise of two big new aircraft carriers, costing £3 billion, to replace the *Invincible*, *Ark Royal* and *Illustrious*. And, although there will be no extensive cuts in equipment, there will be fewer frigates, tanks and Jaguar aircraft.

The main aim of the blueprint to be presented by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, is to keep all the Services' capabilities but to cut out duplication and to restructure the forces for rapid deployment operations overseas.

It suggests that the recent focus on joint missions should be matched by joint training and equipment-buying, with support helicopters coming under a single command although air crews will keep their different uniforms.

That would lead to a bigger role for the Permanent Joint Headquarters set up at Northwood, west London, two years ago, and it is possible that the post of Chief of Joint Operations might become a four-star appointment, which defence sources said might not please the three Service chiefs.

The main equipment change proposed is that when the three existing carriers come out of service in 2012 they should be replaced by two

much bigger ones, each capable of deploying 40 aircraft.

For the first time, the proposed 900 ft carriers would be built according to commercial practice, saving millions of pounds, and the design will focus on providing a large platform rather than on a sophisticated command and control system. The absence of the expensive equipment that is a feature of the present carriers means that maintenance of the new ones will be cheaper and easier. That is why only two would be needed: there would be no need to allow for one to be in dock.

Up to five frigates might go, but the final size of the frigate/destroyer force will depend on the end of an argument between the MoD and the Foreign Office over the Falkland Islands.

The MoD says there is no longer a military threat to the Falklands, so the frigate permanently on patrol in the South Atlantic could be moved. The Foreign Office, on the other hand, says that it is the presence of that frigate that has removed the threat to the Falklands and it wants the warship to stay.

This is a complete reversal of the argument in 1982 when the Foreign Office insisted, against MoD advice, that *HMS Endurance* be withdrawn from the South Atlan-

tic. Argentina saw the move as a sign of Britain's diminished interest in the islands and promptly invaded.

There is also an argument over whether to keep the West Indian guardship on station, its principal roles being to help in drug-busting and protecting Britain's dependent territories.

If the frigates in the Falklands and in the Caribbean were withdrawn, the Navy's frigate/destroyer force could reduce from 35 to 29 or 30. But the most likely decision is for these commitments to remain and for the force levels to be reduced by about two frigates.

The Treasury is also seeking to reduce the number of nuclear-powered submarines from 12 to 10 but the MoD is fighting this option and is confident that Mr Robertson's presentation to Cabinet committee will underline the importance of the nuclear boats in the changed security environment.

The role of Trident is also expected to remain the same. There had been proposals to lower the readiness of one of the four ballistic missile submarines by the time they are all in service by the end of the century. But this argument has been effectively dismissed.

Minihunters and other non-combatant vessels are likely to be reduced by 25 per cent and Jaguar squadrons will be cut. There will be an extra Army mechanised/armoured brigade, but the number of tanks will be cut to 390.



The British actress Helena Bonham Carter at a weekend beachfront tea party in Santa Monica, where she said she would dearly love to win an Oscar tonight "for her Mum and Dad's sake". She has already won five critics' awards

in America for her role in *Wings of the Dove*. Four of the five nominees in the Best Actress category are British: Kate Winslet, Julie Christie and Dame Judi Dench flew in to join Miss Bonham Carter last night. Miss Winslet arrived in Los Angeles with her boyfriend, Jim Threapleton, and her parents, determined to lower expectations. "My winning doesn't enter into it. I don't stand a chance against all these great ladies," she said at Heathrow. Page 3

## French snub Blair's euro stance

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S attempts to place Britain at the heart of Europe faced a direct challenge yesterday when the French Finance Minister said that Britain's stance on the single currency had confined it to the European second division.

On the eve of the Prime Minister's address to the National Assembly in Paris, Dominique Strauss-Kahn said that Mr Blair's decision not to join the economic and monetary union in the first wave next year had diminished Britain's influence in the EU.

Ministers were irritated last night by M. Strauss-Kahn's snub to Mr Blair, which was delivered in a television interview at the Ecofin meeting of European finance ministers in York.

A Downing Street spokesman said that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was "surprised" by the remarks because he had chaired a series of fruitful meetings, attended by M. Strauss-Kahn, over the weekend.

M. Strauss-Kahn placed a cloud over Mr Blair's visit to Paris tomorrow where he will address the National Assembly in French, when he said that Britain's role in Europe would be smaller until it joins the single currency. He told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "In my opinion the only way to be a leading country in Europe is to belong to the euro-zone."

"It is not possible now for the United Kingdom [to join] for a lot of historical reasons, everybody can understand and also for economic reasons because we are not in the same phase of the economic cycle. But before [joining] of course the influence of Britain in Europe is diminished." Page 4

### Oil exporters join forces

Rival oil exporters have banded together in an attempt to reverse the headlong fall in oil prices. Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, the biggest exporters in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, have joined with Mexico, a leading non-member, to co-ordinate a cut in output and to persuade others to join. Page 52

### West Indies lead

West Indies built on an opening partnership of 167 to establish a big first-innings lead over England in the final Test in Antigua. Page 29

TV & RADIO	50, 51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26, 52
LETTERS	23, 37
OBITUARIES	25
MIND & MATTER	17
ARTS	20, 21
CHESS & BRIDGE	41
COURT & SOCIAL	24
SPORT	27-41
FASHION	18
LAW REPORT	43

## Health review threatens secure mental hospitals

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE country's three top-security mental hospitals, which hold some of the most dangerous criminals, face closure under sweeping proposals to overhaul mental health treatment.

The three hospitals and their substantial grounds would be sold and replaced with a nationwide network of smaller units. The change would allow patients from Broadmoor in Berkshire, Rampton in Nottinghamshire and Ashworth on Merseyside to be housed closer to their families.

Among the 1,500 patients held in the three hospitals are Ian Brady, the Moors murderer, Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, and Beverly Allitt, the so-called Angel of Death. The move would also be in line with current medical practice, which is to provide treatment for psychiatric patients based on therapeutic regimes rather than prison conditions.

It would also finally break the power of the Prison Officers Association in the three hospitals and end their image as prisons, rather than hospitals caring for the mentally ill.

Under the proposals, expected to be announced in a comprehensive mental health strategy during the next eight weeks, six to eight small units would be built, including premises specifically for women and patients with learning difficulties.

A spokesman for the Department of Health confirmed that a review was taking place. One source at a special hospital said that closure of the hospitals was believed to be the only way of changing the prison-style culture within them.

Last year a strategy document submitted to ministers by the NHS Executive Board recommended that "the high security hospitals should not continue in their present role beyond the next few years". It said that was "the only way of getting rid of the institutional and punitive culture which continues to pervade them".

Ray Rowden, director of the High Security Psychiatric Services Commissioning Board until last year, tells BBC's *Panorama* tonight: "These places could implode. Let it rumble and I guarantee you that two years from now you'll have another scandal that will come and dole out straight onto your ministerial lap."

Before embarking on closure, however, ministers will need to be reassured that it would not lead to the kind of public crisis of confidence that has engulfed the care in the community policy after the progressive closure of Victorian asylums.

Closure of hospitals would also have public relations implications, as it would be cheaper to run than the current system. Brian Caplan, of the Prison Officers' Association, warns ministers against closing special hospitals: "Make these decisions and you might be doing something else... you cannot have a small unit with a level of security appropriate to the kind of people that are housed in special hospitals," he tells *Panorama*.

## The Pope attacks Nigerian regime

FROM SAM KILEY IN OBA SOUTH-EASTERN NIGERIA

THE POPE yesterday delivered a thinly veiled attack on the Nigerian military junta in a sermon to more than a million people in which he called for greater respect for human rights.

Using his official address as the Roman Catholic church to say what he felt, the Pope told a sprawling congregation: "All of us must work to restore the dignity of the human person or violate human rights."

He added: "God has blessed this land with human and natural wealth, and it is everyone's duty to ensure that these resources are used for the good of the whole people."

It was his second lecture on the subject since he arrived on Saturday for a three-day visit. At the airport - where he was greeted by General Sani Abacha, who heads the military regime - he said that all Nigerians should build a "society that respects all its members in their dignity, their rights, and their freedoms".

One Vatican observer said that he had never seen the Pope "shoot so straight and so quickly from the hip" during a pastoral visit.

The Pope was also said to have asked General Abacha to release "60-odd" prisoners. Human rights groups have said that General Abacha holds at least a hundred political prisoners in detention without trial. Others, including the former head of state Olofinse Obasanjo, are serving life terms after being convicted of "treason" by a military tribunal.

The official declined to say for whom the Pope had sought pardons, but said they were "well known to the public". The list is believed to include Moshood Abiola, the millionaire businessman credited with victory in the annulled 1992 elections, who has been in jail since the army took power in 1993, and several prominent journalists, jailed in the past three months for lampooning the so-called democratic transformation of the country.

Monk beatified, page 11

## 5 facts about the Oscars

1. A best picture Oscar statuette costs £100 to make, but is worth an estimated £33 million in extra box office takings
2. The average age of a voting academy member is 60 years
3. You could make "the full monty" fifty-seven times for the price of one "Titanic"
4. Four of the five nominees for this year's best actress award are British
5. Raquel Welch once promised that if ever nominated for an Oscar, she would turn up to the ceremony naked

weeknights at 7pm on 5

PEOPLE LIFE NEWS

## Britain to advertise for ambassadors

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S ambassadors of the future are to be recruited through advertisements in newspapers and magazines as part of a bold attempt to break up the "old school tie" of the Foreign Office.

In a move which will horrify traditionalists, ministers say they are determined to recruit outsiders from the world of business or education to join ambassadorial ranks.

The initiative is the most radical attempt to change the culture of the Foreign Office, which ministers believe is stuffy and dominated by public-school Oxbridge graduates.

One Whitehall source said: "The suggestion of advertising for outsiders has gone down very badly among the mandarins. They couldn't believe that we could have anyone other than career diplomats as ambassadors."

At the moment, high-flying career diplomats have to serve at least 15 years in the Diplomatic Service before they are appointed as ambassadors. Outsiders are recruited to the Foreign Office, but have been appointed ambassadors only in exceptional cases, such as Peter Jay, who was Lord Callaghan's son-in-law when he was sent to Washington in 1977.

The source said that the rigid Foreign Office career structure - with high-flyers joining straight from university - creates a closed culture in which mandarins speak a rarefied language.

Leading article, page 25

13

3140 046916

مكتبة النخيل

# Breakaway republicans blamed for bomb

THE Irish police confirmed yesterday that they had discovered a bomb that could have caused "massive" destruction and wrecked the Stormont peace talks.

The bomb consisted of 1,300lb of home-made explosives and was nearly complete. It was found late on Saturday night next to a Mitsubishi four-wheel drive vehicle parked in a shed in County Louth, and was almost certainly destined for Northern Ireland. "If a bomb of this size had detonated it would have caused massive and extreme damage," said Chief Superintendent Al McHugh.

Two men were arrested. Security

## Blast would have threatened loyalist ceasefire as Sinn Fein returns to talks, reports Martin Fletcher

sources suspect the Continuity IRA, a republican splinter group, was responsible. Although the group has recently received help from disgruntled IRA members, no CIRIA bomb has yet killed anybody, but one bloodbath could destroy the fragile loyalist ceasefire.

The attack may have been planned to coincide with today's opening of the critical last three-week session of the talks, the Government having made Easter the deadline for the parties to reach an agreement.

Sinn Fein will be back after a

four-week absence caused by two IRA murders, but Ulster Unionists will again challenge its presence by raising the IRA's alleged involvement in a recent mortar attack on Armagh's police station. They also insisted that John Hume's nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party would have to jettison Sinn Fein if there is to be an agreement.

The mainstream SDLP had to have "the courage to move forward with us and condemn the extremists to the dustbin of history," said David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader. Sinn Fein's proposals

for a settlement were "somewhere out in orbit".

For its part Sinn Fein decided to return to the talks this morning after a four-week absence, but insisted on an agreement that excluded Northern Ireland's third largest party, representing 40 per cent of nationalists, "would not be worth a penny candle".

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, accused the Unionists of seeking to destroy Mr Hume's alliance with Gerry Adams and split the SDLP leadership.

The gap between the UUP and

Sinn Fein is still huge, but while Sinn Fein's support for an agreement is technically unnecessary Mr Hume would be extremely reluctant to jettison a party he has spent years coaxing to the negotiating table. Other senior SDLP officials, who share Mr Trimble's aversion to Sinn Fein and consider it a potent electoral threat, would have fewer qualms.

Mr Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, begged the participants to seize "the chance of a lifetime", but the parties called the Government's optimism unwarranted.

Mr Trimble said he was "uncomfortable" with the "type" Mr McGuinness said Tony Blair's claim a deal was "agonisingly close" was "devoid of reality".

Mr Trimble won strong backing for his approach to the negotiations from his party's ruling council. He rejected "any form of North-South relationship which would establish an embryonic all-Ireland government", but supported new bodies to promote "consultation and cooperation" with the Republic provided they were directly accountable to a new Northern Ireland assembly

and operated within the context of a new Council of the Isles.

Though Sinn Fein has conceded a united Ireland is not immediately attainable, it is demanding "powerful all-Ireland bodies... operating independently... with the dynamic and ability to grow". It would view "any agreement in this phase as being part of a transitional process to Irish unity".

The SDLP also wants powerful new cross-border bodies but differs from Sinn Fein in saying they should draw their authority from the new northern assembly and the Irish parliament. Sinn Fein has rejected a new assembly as partitionist.

## Hague under pressure to abandon peers

By James Landale, Political Reporter

WILLIAM HAGUE is facing growing pressure from Tory MPs to end the party's traditional support for hereditary peers, and instead back radical plans for a fully elected House of Lords.

In what would mark a huge U-turn in the Tories' constitutional policy, four MPs today urge the party leader to draw up detailed proposals to transform the Lords into a democratic second chamber.

The first public pressure on Mr Hague to change his stance highlights the growing divisions between Tory MPs and their counterparts in the Lords over constitutional reform. Senior Tory peers are adamantly opposed to the party putting forward any plans of its own for the future of the Lords.

The MPs believe the policy switch would give them greater freedom to attack the Government's plans to scrap hereditary peers voting rights without making clear what will take their place. By supporting some form of elected chamber, the Tories feel they will be able to claim the moral high ground as genuine supporters of democracy. This would contrast with Labour's short-term plans to create an entirely appointed second chamber dominated by Prime Ministerial patronage.

Although a Cabinet committee headed by the Lord Chancellor is expected to outline options for wider Lords reform later this year, few peers expect them to be agreed and implemented until the next

Parliament at the earliest. Andrew Tyrie today becomes the first Tory MP publicly to back a fully elected chamber. Writing in *The Times*, the Chichester MP says that although most Tories would prefer not to alter the Lords, they have to recognise that Labour is committed to reform: "Conservatives could influence the outcome not just by threatening to reject a Labour Bill to remove the hereditary peers but — far more boldly — by proposing to use their majority in the Lords to amend the Bill so that it embodied far more radical and democratic reform."

Other Tory MPs, many of whom are young and newly elected, agree and believe Mr Hague can be persuaded to change his mind. One said: "William has opened up this debate to give himself room for manoeuvre against the old guard." Damian Green, Tory MP for Ashford, said some form of elected element was needed. It is important that we are seen to put a democratic alternative."

Howard Flight, Tory MP for Arundel and South Downs, said: "Most of us think that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. But the Labour is going to fiddle around, we have to take a look at first principles."

David Prior, Tory MP Norfolk North, said: "Going down the last ditch with the hereditary peers is not sensible in this day and age."

Andrew Tyrie, page 22



Protesters against a single currency demonstrate outside the Ecofin meeting of European finance ministers in York yesterday.

Continued from page 1

Europe will be smaller than it could be." The minister's remarks contradicted Mr Blair's insistence that Britain will play a role at the heart of Europe even though the Government has ruled out the possibility of joining the Euro in the next election. A Downing Street spokesman underlined the Government's irritation with M Strauss-Kahn by insisting that Britain's energetic work during its six-month presidency of the European Union showed its

## French snub angers No 10

commitment to Europe. The spokesman said: "The economic reform agenda, which was discussed at length in the summit, is influencing the entire European agenda at the moment."

Ministers also believe it is strange for M Strauss-Kahn to attempt to play down British influence in Europe when so many EU countries are

queuing up to copy new Labour's policies. The Downing Street spokesman said: "In France there is La Blairmania. The Prime Minister also had highly successful meetings last week with Chancellor Nink and Gerhard Schröder, who are mimicking British Government policy."

M Strauss-Kahn was the leading force behind the creation of the Euro X

committee which will only include countries which join the single currency in the first wave in January next year.

In the wake of M Strauss-Kahn's remarks, Mr Brown made clear that Britain would not be bounced into joining the single currency until the economic conditions were right. He told BBC's *On the Record*: "As far as monetary union is concerned there's got to be a period of preparation which is also a period of stability."

## Blair to launch blitz on £4bn-a-year benefit fraud

By Nicholas Watt, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is to launch a blitz on the £4 billion that is lost annually in benefit fraud as the Government intensifies its crusade to modernise the welfare state.

Labour's Green Paper on welfare reform, which will be published on Thursday, will target the annual £2 billion housing benefit bill, which has the highest level of fraud, currently estimated at £1 billion a year.

Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, who will launch the paper, is determined to tackle housing benefit because he believes it encapsulates the flaws in the social security system. He believes that it wastes money, encourages fraud and fosters a sense of powerlessness by trapping people in poor quality housing. At the moment the

benefit is paid automatically by local authorities — which are reimbursed by the Treasury — to people on income support. People on low incomes are also paid the benefit.

Mr Field will herald a series of radical reforms to the benefit, which will be announced in detail in the summer. It is understood that ministers are looking at the possibility of replacing the benefit with a housing voucher scheme called a housing allowance. Under this scheme people would be expected to top up the difference between the allowance and their rent.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, recently made clear her determination to reform housing benefit. In a speech in her Peckham constituency, she said that fraud was

adding: "The cost grew at an alarming rate under the last Government. The £12bn a year exceeds the gross national income of Luxembourg, Tunisia, Uruguay, Vietnam."

The Green Paper will also set a series of "success measures" to allow voters to judge the Government's performance. The measures will include targets on:

- Getting people off welfare and into work
- Expanding pensions by encouraging people to make provision for themselves
- Increasing support for families and children
- Improving educational standards.

Mr Field told *The Sunday Times*: "We are not looking for a cheap social security system; we are looking for one that works."

## 'Collective regret' for shot soldiers

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Government is considering making a collective expression of regret to the families of more than 300 British soldiers who were shot for desertion and cowardice during the First World War.

The move would come as a blow to the soldiers' families and service charities, who have been campaigning for a full legal pardon. They believe many of the soldiers were suffering from shell shock and were unjustly killed by firing squads to set an example to other troops.

The Government launched a Ministry of Defence review of the 309 cases last May and a final decision is expected in two months. John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, said yesterday that each case was still being examined on an individual basis. But he

warned that there were difficulties in giving some soldiers a full pardon. "It is fair that by historical accident some might be reviewed with a view to a pardon but others condemned indefinitely? Or is it better to do it generally and take them as a group?"

"I don't want families who feel that by taking action 80 years after the event, we would leave them in a worse position than previously."

Mr Reid said: "It is fair that by historical accident some might be reviewed with a view to a pardon but others condemned indefinitely? Or is it better to do it generally and take them as a group?"

Mr Reid said: "It is fair that by historical accident some might be reviewed with a view to a pardon but others condemned indefinitely? Or is it better to do it generally and take them as a group?"

### Amended Index Linked Account Rates

Effective from 23rd March 1998. Account no longer open to new investors.

Index Linked Account	Minimum Investment	Gross*	CAI**	Net†
1st Issue Quarterly	£1,000	6.40%	6.56%	5.12%
2nd Issue Yearly	£1,000	6.40%	6.40%	5.12%
3rd Issue Monthly	£1,000	6.22%	6.40%	4.98%
4th Issue Yearly	£1,000	6.40%	6.40%	5.12%
5th Issue Monthly	£1,000	6.22%	6.40%	4.98%
6th Issue Yearly	£1,000	5.90%	6.40%	4.72%
7th Issue Monthly	£1,000	5.75%	5.90%	4.60%

\*Without UK income tax deducted. \*\*Annual return if monthly interest payments remain in the account. †Taxing rate of income tax at 20%. Interest will be payable net of the applicable rate of income tax (which may be reduced by non-savings or gross, subject to the relevant registration, CAI and net rates are illustrative only and have been rounded to two decimal places. Rates may vary but will be correct at the time of going to press. Details of interest rates paid on other accounts are available from any Britannia branch.

**Britannia**  
The Sharing Society  
Britannia Building Society  
Britannia House, Unit  
Southdowne ST13 9PQ

## New deals. Top specs. Top priority.

**DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D233**

- INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 233MHZ
- INTEL 440LX AGPSET
- 32MB HIGH PERFORMANCE SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 4.3GB ATA-33 HARD DRIVE
- 5TB VELOCITY AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PC/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32X CD-ROM DRIVE
- YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVEABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MINI-TOWER CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

**£949 (£1,150.33)**

**DELL DIMENSION XPS D266**

- INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 266MHZ
- INTEL 440LX AGPSET
- 64MB SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 6.4GB HARD DRIVE
- 5TB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PC/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32X CD-ROM DRIVE
- YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVEABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MINI-TOWER CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

**£1,149 (£1,385.33)**

**DELL DIMENSION XPS D333**

- INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 333MHZ
- INTEL 440LX AGPSET
- 64MB SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 8.4GB HARD DRIVE
- 5TB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PC/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32X CD-ROM DRIVE
- YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVEABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MINI-TOWER CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

**£1,379 (£1,655.58)**

The latest technology and up-to-the-minute value. Those are our top priorities. And that's precisely what our three latest Pentium® II processor-based systems deliver. Read the specifications, then call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer\* or get online to our website quickly. We can't hold these prices long. \*Source: IDC

To order online 24 hours: [www.dell.com/uk](http://www.dell.com/uk)

**DELL**

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مركز التجميل"

# Mother's Day joy as lost children return

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN whose children were kidnapped by her Iranian husband six years ago was reunited with them yesterday when they flew back to Britain.

Julia Stevens said that the return of the two youngsters to Britain from Iran was the "best Mother's Day present" she could have wished for. Ms Stevens, 41, last saw her daughter Zaynah, now 16, and son Zahed, 13, in August 1991 just before her estranged husband fled to Iran with them while they were with him for an overnight stay.

After years of pleading Ms Stevens, who lives in Billingham, Lincolnshire, finally persuaded her husband to release them into her care, and then had to persuade the immigration authorities to let them in. After meeting them at Heathrow she said: "I just can't believe it after all this time. I never thought I would see them again."

The children were bewildered but said they were happy to have come home. None of us could speak until we got into the car.

Ms Stevens, who has remarried, said the pair had changed since she had last seen them but she recognised them and she was overjoyed



Julia Stevens was reunited with Zahed and Zaynah

that they still remembered her. "I couldn't believe how tall my daughter was. The last time I saw her she was a little girl and now she's as tall as me. My son has grown so much as well. They are quite the young teenagers."

"I think they are a bit culture-shocked at the moment and it will take a while for things to settle down but we have been chatting about old times and trying to catch up on all the years we have missed."

Ms Stevens met Seyed Ahmad, an artist, in 1978 when she was working as a bilingual secretary in Vienna and married almost immedi-

ately. She converted to Islam and eventually the couple moved to Iran, only to land in the middle of the Iran-Iraq war.

Ms Stevens, who teaches German in Deeping St James, returned to Britain for a holiday with her children in 1989 after fighting red tape to secure them on her passport. Although Zahed had a British passport her daughter was an Iranian citizen.

She said: "I only came over to visit my parents but within weeks my husband called and advised me to stay over here. The children joined the local school and I began to rebuild my life." Mr Ahmad decided

to rejoin his family in Britain and was granted access to the children on the condition he gave Ms Stevens his passport. "I didn't want to take any chances."

"I couldn't believe it when I discovered what he'd done - it was the worst moment of my life."

"He took them so that I would go over to Iran but I knew I could never return there. I wanted my children here with me and have fought with him for years to get them back."

Mr Ahmad eventually agreed to her requests after marrying an Iranian woman. The couple had a baby of their own and decided to let the teenage brother and sister return to England. "Seyed agreed to return my children two years ago but since then I have had to fight against red tape."

"I have spoken with them on the phone but I need to get to know them again. The past six years have been heartbreaking. I have cried myself to sleep every night."

"It seems like fate that they came back to me on Mother's Day but this weekend was the most memorable occasion in my life."

A man was arrested at Heathrow and may face charges of kidnaping.

## Whitehall to open LA office for more film cash

BY JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is to open an office in Hollywood to increase American investment in British films. As British actors, writers and technicians were hoping for success in tonight's Oscar awards, Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said: "By the time our nominees go to Los Angeles for next year's Oscar ceremony, the UK Film Office will no doubt be at the heart of the best victory party in Hollywood."

Mr Smith hopes to open the UK Film Office in Los Angeles as soon as possible, but officials made clear there are no prizes to be won and that no decision had yet been made on who or how many people would make up the staff.

The office will provide a first point of contact for American film studios seeking information about film-making in Britain. It will also give support to British film-makers in the United States. The decision will formally be announced on Wednesday, when the Government unveils the results of its review into the film industry, which began last May.

In a newspaper article yesterday, Mr Smith said: "The office will give day-to-day support to British film-makers in America and provide information to the major studios and others about what the UK can offer them as a movie-making base."

"It sends a big message to Hollywood that we are not a quaint film suburb, but a big block on High Street, Times Square."

The Film Policy Review Group, headed by Tom Clarke, the Films Minister, and Stewart Tull, of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, is expected to recommend radical new ways of boosting the British film industry.

Mr Clarke told Sky News that the group would outline ways to boost investment not only in film production but also in distribution. "We are addressing the problem in a very positive way," he said. "We are working very hard on the issue of more British films being seen by larger audiences."

"If we get that right, as I believe we will, and there is a combination of considerable public funding, the Lottery itself, and private investment, then we can challenge a place in the market both in Britain and abroad."

The review is expected specifically to recommend that National Lottery money be redirected into film marketing.

## Why losing will be no laughing matter for a national joke

AS HER fellow British nominees played down their hopes of victory at tonight's Helena Bonham Carter was the toast of a star-studded beachfront tea party in Santa Monica, where she made a rare confession: She would dearly love to win.

"I know it sounds sappy, but I would like to win for my Mum and Dad's sake and for everyone else who has supported me," the 31-year-old actress said, as Kate Winslet, Julie Christie and Jamie Lee Curtis were in to join her for the only Oscar night in history in which four of the five Best Actress nominees are British.

Miss Bonham Carter's words were given added piquancy by an interview published in yesterday's Los Angeles Times in which she called the British press "constantly cruel and malicious" and said she was "sort of a national joke" in her home country. Her nominated role as a scheming lover in *Wings*

Giles Whittell watches as the best of British actresses gather in readiness for the Oscars

of the Dove, the Henry James adaptation, has been warmly embraced in America, however. She has already won five critics' awards here, and she brought an entire seaside block to a standstill on Saturday, arriving at the annual Bafta tea party at the mercy of a stiff breeze in a sheer green blouse and pink skirt.

Miss Winslet touched down in Los Angeles late on Saturday with her boyfriend, Jim Threapleton, and her parents, determined to lower expecta-

tions. "My winning does not enter into it. I don't stand a chance against all these great ladies," she said.

The star of *Titanic* has nonetheless been given a front-row seat at the Shrine Auditorium for tonight's ceremony - a clear sign that her box office is a contender. She also has the advantage of exposure. "There are so many different factors at play that you have to put aside who did the best performance," Miss Bonham Carter said, a shade ruefully, at the Bafta event. "Kate [in a film every-one's seen, Julie Christie in *Afterglow*] is unfortunately in a film no one has seen."

Minnie Driver heeded shrieking fans by running over to sign autographs after alighting from a silver Mercedes in a black lace shift at Saturday's party at Shutters on the Beach, a \$300-a-night hotel. Her evident star appeal as a Best Supporting Actress nominee for *Good Will Hunting* belied some salty realism about her chances.

"I know I'm not going to win," she said. "If I do, a lightning bolt will pass up my backside."

Mark Addy, a hot property in Hollywood after his endearing turn as the paunchiest stripper in *The Full Monty*, assessed the film's hopes of the Best Picture prize as "slender". Financial analysts are already forecasting the potential cash benefit to each nominee of winning an Oscar. Matt Damon would be most enriched, according to the Wall Street Journal, with a salary jumping from \$300,000 to \$6 million should he win Best Actor for *Good Will Hunting*. Miss Winslet came a close second. With an Oscar under her belt she could command \$5 million per film, the newspaper said, whereas Miss Bonham Carter "needs to trade in her corsets for 'Barman' Spandex to make the big leagues".

The most nervous people at tonight's ceremony may well be ABC executives. American TV union members have threatened to take industrial action, possibly including a short blackout at the end of the Oscar broadcast, in protest at being replaced for the evening by technicians not normally employed by the network.



The Titanic necklace to be worn at the Oscars

## Necklace inspired by film auctioned for Titanic price

A SAPPHIRE and diamond necklace modelled on a piece of jewellery in the film *Titanic* has sold for \$2.2 million (£1.36 million) at a fund-raising ball held in honour of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The event was part of a gala held on Saturday to raise money for her memorial fund and an AIDS charity in California. The necklace, called "La Coeur de la Mer" had been valued at \$3.5 million.

of costume jewellery, but Asprey of London were inspired to create a real one. The marine-blue gem, called from mines in Sri Lanka, is set in platinum and encased by a 36-carat collection of diamonds.

The bidder, who has not been named, is expected to lend the necklace to singer Celine Dion, to wear in her Oscar ceremony performance of the movie's theme song tonight.

A blue box painted with the letter "D" and decorated with the national flowers of Great Britain went for \$6,000 (£3,700) to a woman who declined to give her name. The Princess had given the box to Paul Burrell, her butler, as a birthday present. Mr Burrell now manages the memorial fund.

The fund will help charity groups supported by the Princess, including those that sponsor research into AIDS. AP



Sir Tim Rice and Lord Lloyd-Webber celebrate with an impromptu performance

BY ALAN HAMILTON

LORD Lloyd-Webber celebrated his half-century with a party at his Hampshire home on Saturday at which he teamed up with the lyricist Sir Tim Rice, the other half of one of Britain's most successful musical partnerships.

It was a milestone that could not go unmarked. In front of a large and distinguished company of guests that included Sir John Mills, Sir David Frost and Joan

## Singing duo find laughs begin at 50

Collins, Lord Lloyd-Webber and Sir Tim took to the boards in the early hours for an impromptu performance. It was the first of their career, according to Lord Lloyd-Webber.

They did not choose hits from *Cats*, *Aspects of Love* or any of their own creations. Instead, they crooned the Everly Brothers' *Bye Bye Love* and *All I Have to Do is Dream*.

Nostalgia was reinforced by a backing band led by Bobby Vee, whose best-known hit was *Rubber Ball*. Lord Lloyd-Webber's daughter Imogen, who was celebrating her 21st birthday at the same party, had not even been born when it was a hit at the start of the Sixties.

## Top expert warns of coming drugs nightmare

BY ADAM FRESCO

BRITAIN is facing a drug crisis that will see open warfare on the streets between rival drug gangs, according to an international drug expert. Ramachandra Sundaralingam, who has served as Interpol's drug expert for 11 years and has given briefings at the White House, says that Europe is facing "the nightmare of the millennium" unless drastic steps are taken to control the growth of organised crime.

Mr Sundaralingam believes that the next few years would see more drugs than ever flooding the streets of Europe. With trade barriers coming down all over eastern Europe suppliers were finding it easier to get their goods into western Europe.

Speaking at the International Conference for Criminal Analysis in Manchester, Mr Sundaralingam said: "We once lived in hope but we now just live in fear. Sometimes you pay a high price for freedom. Drug-trafficking is worth billions of pounds a year."

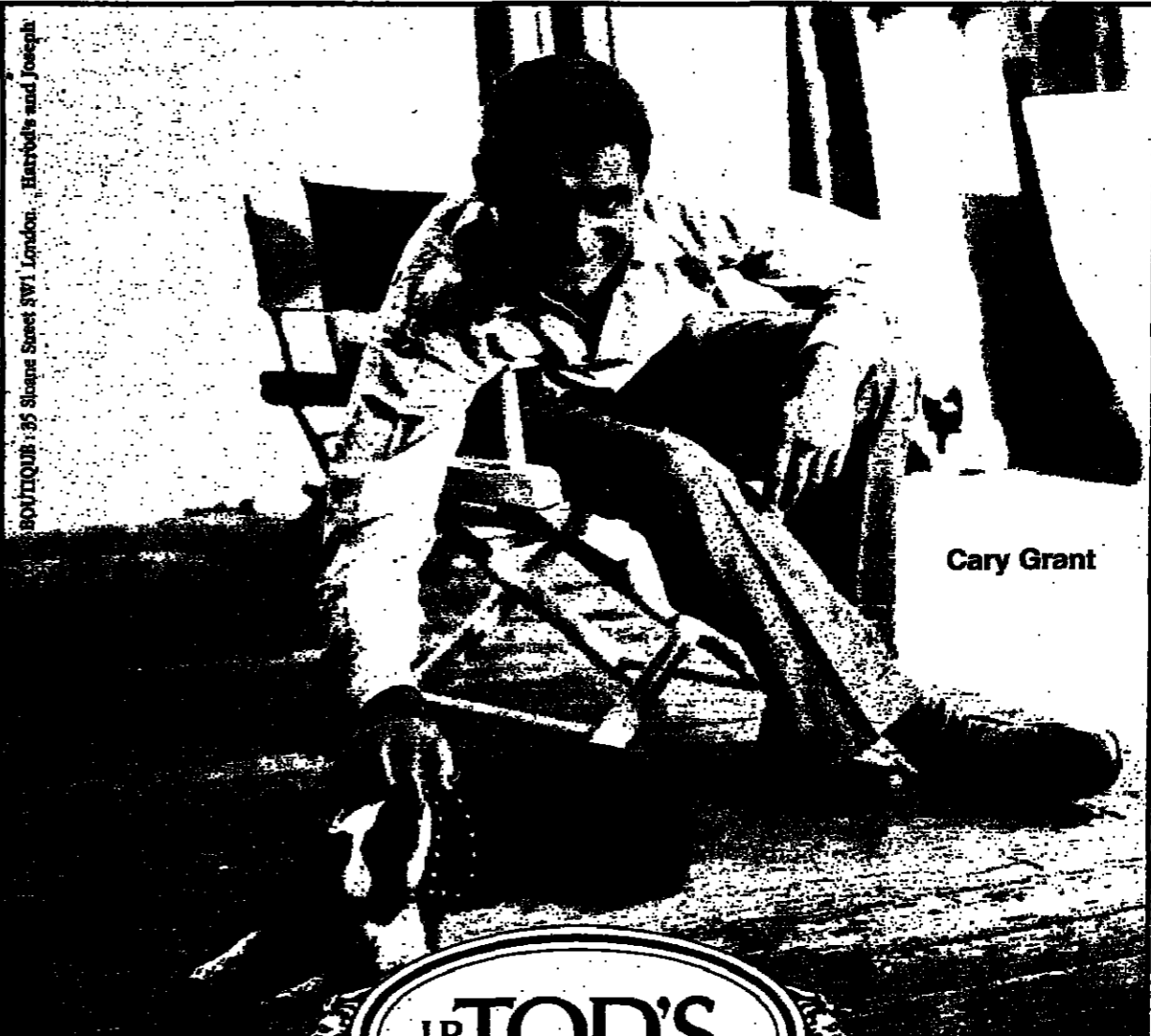
"The highways of Europe are now the freeways of the drug-trafficker. There are no checks or controls: 2040kg of heroin was seized in Britain last year, second only to Turkey. That is worth millions and millions of pounds and the amount seized is probably only 15 per cent of what is coming this way."

"It is flooding in by air, sea and road. The Nigerians are even posting it to addresses here from Thailand."

"The biggest players in this country at the moment are the Turkish gangs but they are being challenged by the Albanians, who have already taken control in Switzerland and are beginning to make their mark in this country."

"They are very clever and they have almost edged out the Turks in getting the drugs into this country."

Arguing for international cooperation, Mr Sundaralingam added: "No country can beat the drugs problem on its own. We have to win against drugs. The threat is growing and time is running out."



Cary Grant



### Robot may unfreeze secrets of icy lake

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE secrets of a huge lake buried beneath the Antarctic ice may be revealed.

Scientists meeting in St Petersburg this week will discuss how to explore Lake Vostok, which lies beneath more than 12,000ft of ice, without contaminating it. The project will test techniques that will one day be used to explore the oceans of Europa, one of Jupiter's moons.

The plan involves drilling down to within a few hundred metres of the water, then using a heated device to melt through the ice. Before it penetrates, the cryobot will be halted, letting ice freeze above it. A sterilant will then be released to destroy any organisms on the cryobot, which will continue until it penetrates the ice. Then it will release a tiny submersible to send data back through optical fibres.

## More prisoners lodge claims of jail assault

By Richard Ford  
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE inmate whose allegations of torture by prison officers at Wormwood Scrubs forced the Home Secretary to order an urgent inquiry is a Nigerian said to be serving eight years for raping an elderly disabled woman confined to a wheelchair.

He claims he was beaten almost every day for a month by prison officers and was transferred at the weekend to Albany prison on the Isle of Wight, which specialises in dealing with sex offenders. Another prisoner, who is in the process of giving a statement, was moved over the weekend to Mount Vernon Hospital in Northwood, northwest London.

He has been placed under a suicide watch after becoming tearful and frightened after his decision to make a formal complaint. A third complainant, John Banks, a remand prisoner whose bloodied forehead was seen on television after a court appearance last week, has already been moved

### Rapist who made first complaint is transferred from Wormwood Scrubs after solicitor's legal threat

to Wandsworth prison in southwest London.

Five of the original "Wormwood Scrubs Eight" whose allegations led to the crisis are black. Other prisoners who have complained of mistreatment by officers at the over-



Wormwood Scrubs inquiry ordered

crowded Victorian jail in West London include a man serving six years for child molesting, a double rapist and a man serving life for rape.

The Nigerian was moved from the prison after Daniel Machover, his solicitor, sent a fax to Jack Straw threatening judicial review proceedings in the High Court unless the injured man was transferred immediately.

Since the inquiry was announced last week, Mr Machover has been inundated with fresh allegations from current and former prisoners. "There is a tidal wave of information coming our way. Some of it may be rubbish, but a lot of it is compelling."

Originally only statements from eight inmates were included in the dossier handed over to the Chief Inspector of Prisons, but the figure is now

understood to have grown to more than 20.

Mr Machover has won legal aid for a judicial review of the Prison Service's refusal to suspend ten officers at the heart of the allegations. "I think there has been a distinct lack of political will to grapple with or understand the seriousness of these allegations."

One of the reasons why the Prison Service has not so far suspended the men is the fear of a backlash leading to industrial action.

Mr Machover has resisted pressure from the Prison Service and the officers' union to name all the complainants, but says he is awaiting clients' instructions. "My clients have no faith in the system. These people have been failed in a really serious way, that is why they want to remain anonymous and why they want an independent inquiry."

Mark Healy, national chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said the media attention was raising enormous tensions for his members: "They are being typecast as carrying out brutal acts."



Morse, and his sidekick Sherlock, aged 14 weeks, will enter service later this year

# This month, half-a-million Premium Bond winners shared over £40 MILLION.



The facts about Premium Bonds are pretty incredible. For instance, every month someone becomes an overnight millionaire - guaranteed. Besides which, there are over 500,000 other prizes ranging from £50 to £100,000. The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum £20,000. Over a period of time, a maximum holder can hope to win an average of 12 to 13 PRIZES A YEAR - and that's tax-free. And what's more, you can get your money back whenever you want. Make sure you get your application in by the end of March. Then your bonds will be in the May draw and every monthly draw after that. You can use the coupon or buy at your local post office.

## Premium Bonds

The INCREDIBLE investment opportunity.

Any person aged 16 or over can buy Premium Bonds for themselves. Bonds can be bought for children under 16 by their parents, (great) grandparents or guardians. You should receive the Bond and a copy of the prospectus normally within three weeks. This advertisement is a simplified guide. The purchase date will be the date we receive your application with debit card details or cheque. Bonds go into prize draws one full calendar month after the month of purchase. Three months notice will be given to any changes to the prize structure or interest rate that makes up the prize fund. The Director of Savings reserves the right to seek evidence of identity.

EBITMS Please send this form with either your cheque or debit card details to: National Savings, PREMIUM BONDS, Freeport Rd 20002, Blackpool, FY3 6QQ. If you prefer, use a first class stamp for rapid delivery.

- Do you already hold Premium Bonds? (please tick) Yes  No
- Amount of this purchase (in words) \_\_\_\_\_ pounds £. Maximum £200. Larger amounts must be in multiples of £100.
- I enclose a cheque crossed "A/C Payee" and made payable to "NATIONAL SAVINGS (PREMIUM BONDS)". (Please use Capital letters for the part of the cheque, and write your name and address on the back.) OR  
Please debit my Switch  Delta  Delta and Switch are subject to your bank's terms and conditions. NO CREDIT CARD PURCHASES ACCEPTED.
- I accept the purchase will be subject to the terms of the current Prospectus.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- M \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
All surnames \_\_\_\_\_  
Address in full \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth DAY MONTH YEAR \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number (useful if there is a query) \_\_\_\_\_
- If buying for a child under 16, give name of parent/guardian:  
M \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
All surnames \_\_\_\_\_
- If buying for a (great) grandchild, give name of the parent/guardian above and your own name and address below:  
M \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
All surnames \_\_\_\_\_  
Address in full \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

The form cannot be used to purchase Premium Bonds at a post office.

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

## Detectives call in professionals with a nose for crime

By Alan Hamilton

ESSEX Police are placing their faith in two lugubrious new recruits to get a good whiff of the county's crime.

Their names are Sherlock and Morse, and behind their sad, wrinkled faces lies an unrivalled sense of smell. The bloodhound, ultimate sniffer dog in both fiction and reality, is back on the beat after an absence of at least 60 years.

The Home Office has given Essex Police an £11,000 research grant to employ and test the legendary skills of an animal once described as a dog walking behind a nose.

Although German shepherds, Labrador and spaniels have been put to work on the trail of drugs and explosives, the skills of the bloodhound as a tracker of people have fallen into disuse.

Sherlock and Morse, bought from a specialist Suffolk breeder of pedigree bloodhounds, are only 14 weeks old, and will undergo a period of intensive training by police dog handlers. By the end of the year, the force hopes, they will be at the sniffing edge of efforts to cut crime in the county.

Bloodhounds were known in southern Europe in the pre-Christian era. They were brought to England by William the Conqueror, who used them to track down enemies fleeing the battlefield. Opinion is divided, however, on whether that is the origin of their name, or whether it simply means good breeding, as in "bloodstock".

PC Malcolm Fish, an instructor at the Essex Police dog training unit at Sandon, near Chelmsford, has spent three years studying the ability of police dogs to track scent. Now Sherlock will be looked after by PC Chris Houlding at Chelmsford, and Morse by PC Terry Smith at Harlow.

PC Fish said yesterday that bloodhounds had an unusual ability to follow airborne scents. "The scent is given to the bloodhound through an article touched or handled by the suspect, and the dog will follow that scent to the exclusion of all others," he said.

"They can even pick up a trail that may be 24 hours old, and can work off the slightest scent that may have been left by a single handprint. When someone moves, they leave behind millions of dead skin cells which remain in the air, human scent is as individual as DNA, and the bloodhound's sense of smell is so acute that it can follow an individual scent."

### FOR £1 OFF THE BIG DAY OUT IT'S IDEAL

- Showhouse Village
- Park and Gardens feature
- Concept Living in association with London Electricity featuring the Oyster House
- Stunning roomsets
- Over 650 exhibitors
- Cadbury's World of Chocolate
- Hundreds of thousands of prizes to be won!

## DAILY MAIL IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION

EARLS COURT, LONDON, 19 MARCH-13 APRIL, 10AM-8PM. LATE NIGHT THURSDAYS 10AM-10PM. TICKET BOOKING AND INFORMATION HOTLINE 0990 90 00 90.

SAVE £1 ON AN ADULT ENTRY. Simply present this coupon at the Box Office and you'll receive £1 off an adult ticket, before 5pm.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Not valid with any other discounts or offers. Valid for up to two people. Postcodes not accepted.

# Nuclear subs escape cuts in military review

THE Royal Navy's fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, which appeared vulnerable to fresh cuts because of the perceived disappearance of the Russian military threat, have emerged with an enhanced role in the Government's defence review.

Although the threat from Russian submarines has receded since the end of the Cold War, updated Akula-class Russian hunter-killer nuclear submarines are searching for American and British ballistic missile submarines.

One continuing role for Royal Navy nuclear boats, therefore, is to protect the Trident ballistic missile submarine on patrol in the North Atlantic. With only one out of the planned four Trident boats on patrol at any one time, the Navy dare not risk a Russian Akula-class boat detecting it, even if Moscow had no hostile intentions.

The Royal Navy's nuclear submarines have also expanded their roles to meet different

Navy boats are given enhanced surveillance and intelligence role, reports Michael Evans

threats, and the review carried out by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, has taken this into account.

The Trafalgar-class submarines have taken on a substantial intelligence-gathering and surveillance role. Submarines have been used to deploy special forces in the past, but this capability has been substantially improved. Trafalgar-class boats now have mini-sub, known as swimmer-delivery vehicles, that are housed in temporary hangars attached to the hull next to the escape hatch. Special forces personnel in diving gear have to climb out of the hatch and enter the hangar before boarding the six-man mini-sub, designed like an open chariot, and exiting through a door in the hangar.

Another increasingly important role is covert electronic surveillance. The Trafalgar-class submarines can lie submerged offshore with a

radio antenna sticking out above the surface that can pick up different radio frequencies, including coded military and diplomatic signals. This type of eavesdropping can produce significant results from countries such as Bosnia, where the mountainous terrain makes land-based electronic surveillance less reliable.

From November, the first Trafalgar-class boats will be equipped with Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles that are being bought from the Americans. Five submarines are to be fitted with Tomahawks.

The Trafalgar boats each have five torpedo tubes, and the intention is to have a mix of torpedoes and Tomahawks. The Navy wants the new Astute-class submarines, being built by GEC Marconi, to have six torpedo tubes to provide more room for Tomahawks. At present, the Government has ordered a modest number of Tomahawks, but if the Navy is allowed six torpedo tubes on the Astute-class boats, it could lead to a bigger purchase.

Although the nuclear submarines clearly have a guaranteed future, there is an argument between the Ministry of Defence and the Treasury over precise numbers. The Navy, backed apparently by General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, insists that it needs to

## MISSIONS OF THE TRAFALGAR CLASS SUBMARINE

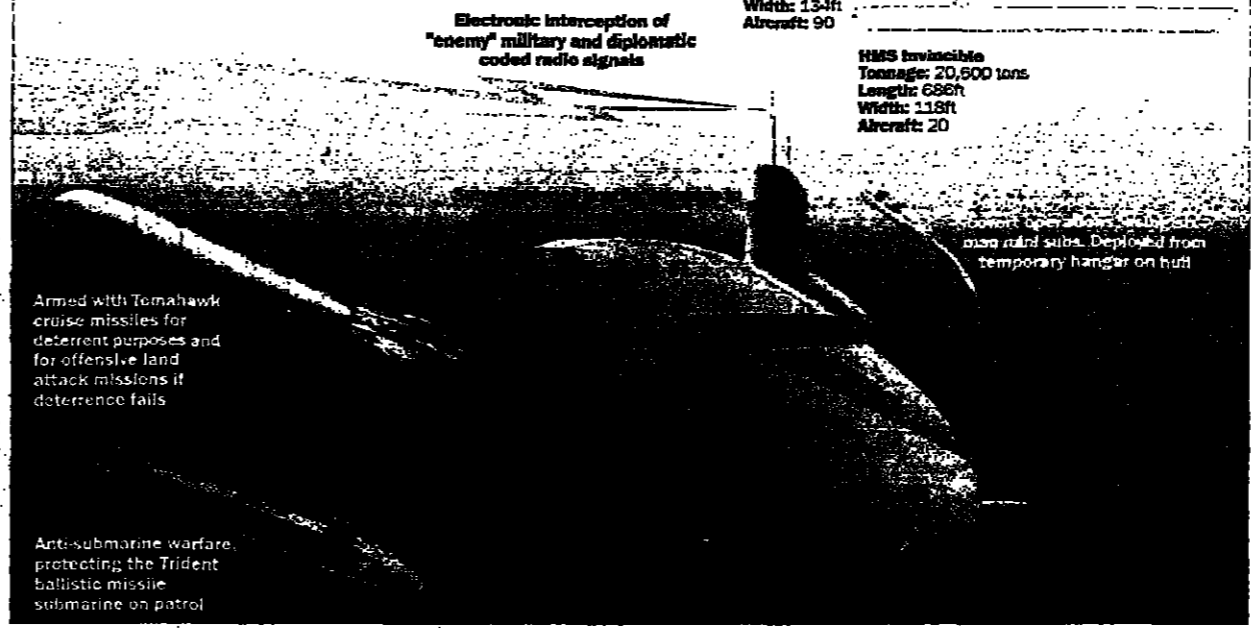
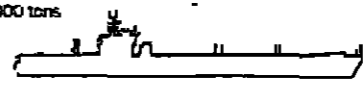
Nuclear-powered attack submarine.  
Tonnage: 5,200 tons (dried)  
Length: 280ft  
Max speed: 32 knots  
Torpedo tubes for Tomahawks: 5

## THE PROPOSED NEW ROYAL NAVY CARRIER AND HOW IT WOULD COMPARE

New carrier  
Tonnage: 40,000 tons  
Length: 900ft  
Width: 118ft  
Aircraft: 40

USS Nimitz  
Tonnage: 87,000 tons  
Length: 1,052ft  
Width: 133ft  
Aircraft: 90

HMS Invincible  
Tonnage: 20,500 tons  
Length: 658ft  
Width: 115ft  
Aircraft: 20



Armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles for deterrent purposes and for offensive land attack missions if deterrence fails

Anti-submarine warfare protecting the Trident ballistic missile submarine on patrol

Electronic interception of "enemy" military and diplomatic coded radio signals

Large patrol subs. Deployed from temporary hangar on hull

keep the full fleet of 12 nuclear-powered submarines to fulfil all the new roles.

The Treasury wants to cut the force from 12 to 10 by scrapping plans to order two more Astute-class submarines, a more advanced version of the existing Trafalgar-class boats, referred to as Batch 2 Trafalgar submarines.

The argument about aircraft carriers and amphibious ships was won fairly early on in the review. It was agreed that the Navy should keep carriers, and that when the present three were too old they should be replaced by two bigger ones, capable of carrying twice as many fixed wing and rotary aircraft. It was also

agreed that the Navy should retain three amphibious assault ships: the new helicopter carrier, HMS Ocean, which has recently come into service, and replacements for HMS Intrepid and HMS Fearless.

However, the Navy's battle to keep 12 nuclear submarines was challenged by the Treasury. Three Astute-class boats were ordered in March last year for £2 billion, and are under construction at GEC Marconi's yard at Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria, run by its subsidiary, VSEL. This order is safe but the next planned contract for two more came under threat when the Treasury demanded cuts.

However, the Navy argued

that, to fulfil all the roles now carried out by the nuclear submarines, there should be a fleet of 14 boats. But because an increase in numbers was out of the question in a defence review which was supposed to be "cost-neutral", navy chiefs told ministers that 12 was the minimum requirement. The Navy had already lost six nuclear submarines, from 18 to 12, under cuts by the previous Conservative Government.

One other minor argument has been over the four advanced diesel-electric Upholder-class submarines that were built in the late 1980s for a total of £900 million and axed under the previous Government's Options for Change

review in 1990. The boats, some of which never even came into service, are still tied up at Barrow-in-Furness, waiting for some foreign navy to buy them. Canada, South Africa and Chile have until now been the most likely candidates.

It was suggested during the defence review that the Navy could keep the four boats, but this was swiftly rejected on the grounds that diesel-electric submarines do not have the range or endurance of the nuclear boats. The problem for the Government is that if a sensible offer is not made for the Upholder-class boats in the next few months, they are likely to be sold at a substantial discount.

# Backing for driver in fatal train crash

By Tim Jones

A RAIL union is seeking to clear the name of a train driver who pleaded guilty to manslaughter after a train crash that killed five people and injured more than 30 passengers eight years ago.

Robert Morgan, 55, was jailed for 18 months, with all but six months suspended. He had admitted two specimen charges of unlawfully killing two passengers. His sentence was reduced to four months by the Court of Appeal.

Mr Morgan was driving a train from Liphempton to Victoria when it hit the rear of another train after he had ignored warning signals. Six coaches were thrown down an embankment. The court was told that Mr Morgan, of Ferring, West Sussex, had recklessly disregarded safety precautions. He had ignored two sets of warning signals and had cancelled an automatic warning signal.

His union, Aslef, has decided to press for his case to be reopened and to seek damages following the acquittal earlier this month of another driver involved in a train crash.

Peter Afford, who drove a train involved in an accident at Watford Junction two years ago in which a woman died and 70 people were injured, was cleared of manslaughter by a jury at Luton Crown Court.

The prosecution had claimed that the accident was caused by gross negligence on the part of Mr Afford, 57. The jury was told that a system of inter-linked signals was designed to warn him to proceed with caution, but were apparently ignored.

Defence lawyers argued that the fault lay with the layout of the railway lines and the confusing array of warning signals.

Law Adams, the union's general secretary, said: "It is quite clear that Mr Morgan was left to take the blame when the accident may have been caused by infrastructure shortcomings."

Train drivers could soon be commanding salaries of £50,000 a year because of a shortage of properly qualified crews.

Aslef claims a national shortage of at least 450 drivers means some can boost their pay through overtime or rest day payments. The union said some private train operators are making big payments to avoid being penalised for the late running of services.



Morgan: driver of train that crashed

CHANGES TO THE NAVY	
NOW	PLANNED
3	2
AIRCRAFT CARRIERS	
35	25-33
FRIGATES/DESTROYERS	
12	10-12
NUCLEAR FLEET SUBMARINES	
3	3
AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIPS	
247	18
MINESWEEPERS/SURVEY VESSELS	
44	44
MERLIN NAVAL HELICOPTERS	
44,500	44,500
MANPOWER (including Royal Marines)	

# New demands on defence to cope with war or peace

By Michael Evans

THE Government's defence review has generated one of the most comprehensive examinations of security requirements since the 1950s.

The last Government made wholesale cuts in manpower and equipment when the Cold War ended and there was a demand for a peace dividend. However, as the Armed Forces came under increasing demand to meet commitments both at the prolonged peacekeeping

mission in Bosnia and the deployment to the Gulf, Labour focused on developing a navy, army and air force that could be ready at relatively short notice to launch operations in Europe and the Mediterranean region.

With no military threat to this country envisaged, home defence, other than Northern Ireland, could be sacrificed in favour of converting the three services into a modern flexible "force for good" at the disposal of Nato, the United Nations or an American-led coalition.

The second prerequisite was to

develop ways of procuring equipment to avoid duplication between the services and to create a more streamlined training system.

If future carriers were to become platforms for a range of aircraft — from the Royal Navy, RAF and Army — it made sense, ministers agreed, for a single establishment to train the pilots and navigators. The same argument was made for support helicopters flown by the different services. Under this logic, it is possible that all support helicopter training could be carried out on one base, such as the Royal Navy station

at Yeovilton, and Royal Navy and RAF Harrier crews could train at RAF Wittering.

One important lesson learnt at the start of the defence review was that it was going to be impossible to create go-anywhere forces while still providing the Treasury with another large slice of peace dividend, although there should be savings from the restructuring.

The defence review has not been about creating smaller and better-equipped Armed Forces — the catchphrase of Tom King, the former Tory Defence Secretary and archi-

tect of the 1990 Options for Change review — but developing a different structure to ensure that Britain would always be ready to contribute to any peacekeeping or warfighting operation.

It was on this basis that the Army argued for a sixth armoured/mechanised brigade to be created out of 5 Airborne Brigade, which is too lightly equipped. As one army source said: "With six brigades instead of the present five, the Prime Minister would be able to call on us to provide an armoured formation at 30 days' notice."

# Computer fails to master Welsh

By Matthew Barbour

A £5 MILLION BBC computer system is gathering dust because it cannot understand everyday Welsh.

Staff have been forced to use pen and paper while a team of American troubleshooters tries to teach the machine the subtleties of Cymraeg.

The "bilingual" computer at BBC Wales had been programmed to understand Welsh and English, but it has not been able to cope with many of the colloquial terms in Welsh that are not found in the dictionary.

BBC Wales has four stations at its headquarters in Cardiff, two of which, Radio Cymru and the TV news channel Newyddion, broadcast exclusively in Welsh. A BBC journalist said: "The system was so slow that no one could get on with their work."

"You would ask it to perform a simple task and then stare at a blank screen for up to a minute. People were cursing the computer all day

and many of us went back to using pen and paper for the first time in ten years."

Problems with the system left staff unable to do simple tasks such as checking contact numbers for local police, fire and ambulance stations. Instead, they were left scouring directories for the numbers.

Huw Rossiter, BBC Wales's head of press and publicity, said: "The new computer was built to our specifications and designed to work in both English and Welsh. Unfortunately, it didn't fully comprehend the Welsh language, because so many words change from the dictionary spelling when they are used in everyday speech. The computer was coming across words that it didn't recognise and would then slow the whole thing down."

The problem is being solved by setting up a separate Welsh-only system. "This time we hope it will fully understand," he added.

# Dobson threatens health chiefs over waiting list cuts

By Ian Murray and Nicholas Watt

FRANK DOBSON threatened yesterday to dismiss local health service leaders if they fail to reduce hospital waiting lists.

The Health Secretary said he had to use the language of "or else" to ensure that he met his target of reducing waiting lists by 100,000 within a year. He would then go on to reduce the lists by a further 100,000 to fulfil Labour's manifesto pledge.

However, he made clear that he had no intention of putting his own job on the line. He told BBC's Breakfast with Frost: "I haven't sort of written an undated letter of resignation."

Mr Dobson is to call in all 520 chief executives and chairmen of health authorities and trusts this week to tell them he expects immediate improvements in waiting lists after they were given an extra £500 million in the Budget.

However, he was forced to



Dobson: will meet top executives this week

admit yesterday that he might not achieve his ambition. He said: "I'm confident they [the health service leaders] will meet the target I've set or get very near it."

Mr Dobson will emphasise that cutting waiting lists is a top priority for the Government. "I will have to say, 'If you fail to do it, we will have to get other people to come in and give you advice and give you help,'" he said. "It's got

to be delivered. I can't get rid of the paid officials, but the people I appoint as chairmen and non-executive directors hold their positions while I have confidence in them."

He said that he was going to sort out the targets for each hospital and provide the funds needed to meet them. "We'll say, 'Here's the extra money, now deliver it.'"

It will be left to each authority or trust to work out how to cut its waiting list, but they will be expected to use the extra money to reopen wards, introduce seven-day working for operating theatres and to devise rotas that will entice nurses back into the profession.

Mr Dobson has already admitted that waiting lists will continue to grow from the present level of 1.2 million but he promised Parliament last week that by April of next year they will be back at the pre-election level of 1.1 million. By the end of this Parliament he expects them to be down to under a million.

# The baked bean: luxury in Chinese

By Alan Hamilton

A BILLION Chinese households every day may soon pick up a can of beans and say: "This is luxury."

Heinz, the world's leading supplier of baked beans, is about to launch them on the world's largest consumer market. It is hoped to be a counter-invasion as successful as decades of infiltration into Europe and North America by noodles, chicken chop suey and special fried rice.

Beans for China will be made to the traditional recipe at the Heinz plant at Wigan, and canned with Chinese-language labels. Retailing at about 57p a can, the beans are likely to appeal mostly to China's emergent middle classes, and they may become something of a status symbol, the kind of exotic dish served up to impress the boss when he comes to dinner.

The baked bean, an American invention, has conquered most of the known world to become the most successful

convenience food in a tin. China, with 1.2 billion potential consumers, will become the 61st country to be introduced to the food, but no one is quite certain what they will make of it, or whether it is suited to the chopstick.

Malcolm Ritchie, vice-president of Heinz's European grocery and food service division, said yesterday: "I don't think baked beans will be seen just as a Western curiosity. Nutritionally they have a lot in common with soy, a ubiquitous Chinese ingredient."

The beans will go on sale in China next month. In the first year, Heinz is expecting a sale of about 1.2 million cans. Britain eats 1.5 million cans a day.

The company admits that it may be taken by surprise. In Russia, where Heinz beans were introduced in 1996, a forecast that five million cans would be sold in the second year was exceeded by 50 per cent.

# demon@beck.and.call

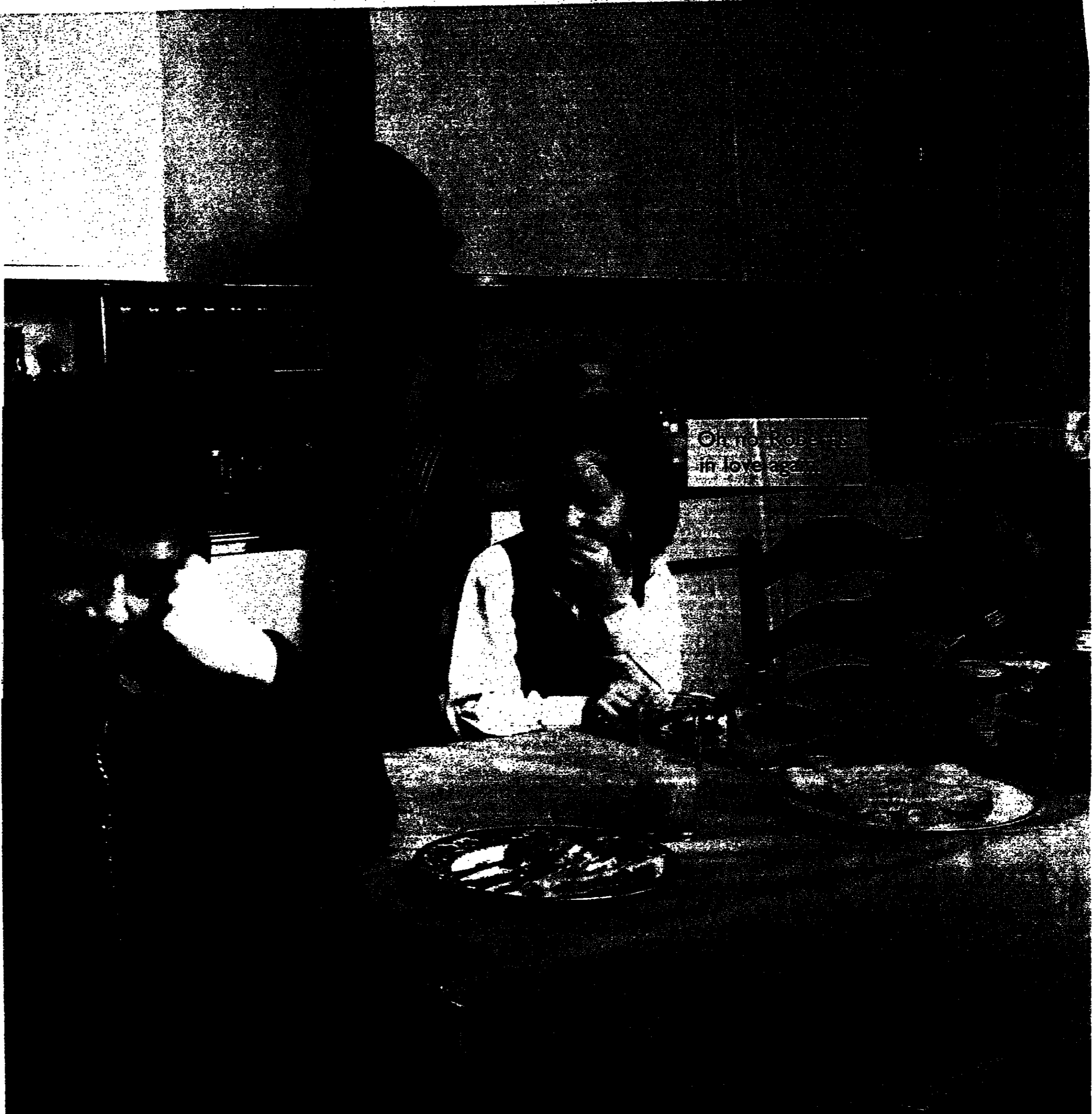
no-one makes it easier for you to get on-line than demon, europe's no.1 independent internet service provider.

so if you need any help when you're starting up, our support line provides it, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. for your free 30-day trial cd and brochure, call us on 0800 458 9666. or scribble your name and address anywhere on this ad, then tear it out and send it to us at freepost demon (yes, that's all you have to write).

it really is that simple, only easier.

**Demon Internet**  
more people get on with us  
**0800 458 9666**  
www.demon.net email: sales@demon.net

TT2302A



**For Robert's Mum, 100 free minutes of local calls**

Over 300,000 of you have just told us what you want from your phone service

Price was obviously top of most people's list. So we give our new customers 100 minutes of local evening calls free, every month. It gives people extra value at a time they really want it.

In Robert's case it keeps his Mum off his back. As for his Mum, well, it saves her a bit of money.

And our tariffs are also tailored around individuals - we save you money on the type of calls you make the most: local, national or international.

Because, as Britain's new phone, TV and Internet provider, we wanted to start off differently. With you.

**What can we do for you?**  
FreeCall 0800 068 8096

<http://www.cwcom.co.uk>

Direct  
est of  
ootbal

Empty

100MHz  
Perbit

01699  
01996

01282

# Directors face test of power in football scandal

THE board of Newcastle United meets today amid rumours that its three independent directors, including the chairman, will resign unless the disgraced directors Freddy Shepherd and Douglas Hall go instead.

The company, which owns the club, is convening in London to consider its half-yearly figures, which are due for release tomorrow. It is also expected to consider a second weekend of tabloid revelations about the two men's alleged activities in a Spanish brothel.

Yesterday John Regan, of the Newcastle Supporters' Association, said: "We call upon the non-executive directors of the club to resign if they cannot shift Hall and Shepherd from their positions. We are having our own AGM later this week and we will be considering our strategy."

One of the non-executive directors, Sir Terence Harri-

## Paul Wilkinson reports how the allegations about Newcastle chiefs are going from bed to board

son, the chairman, yesterday attempted to calm things down after a week of intense pressure on Tyneside and in the City for the two men to "do the honourable thing". Sir Terence, chairman of the construction giant Alfred McAlpine and a lifelong Newcastle supporter, said: "There is so much hype about this, I'd far rather let matters run their course in the next few days."

But he added: "We have responsibilities as directors of

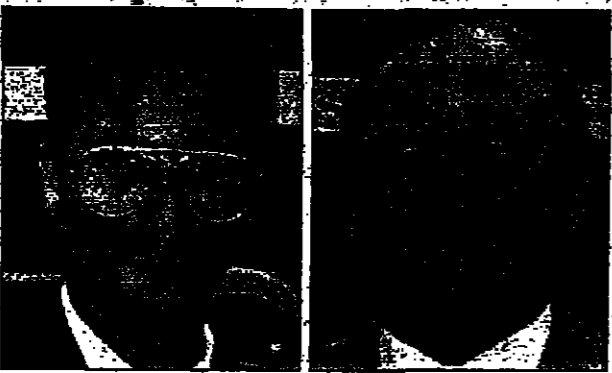
a public company, we have to fulfil those. In the light of circumstances, the independent non-executive directors have to consider their position."

The other two independent directors, installed to give the company status in the City when the club was floated on the Stock Market a year ago, are Denis Cassidy and John Mayo. Mr Cassidy, 65, a former director of Liberty's and Boddingtons brewery, holds a number of board memberships in the clothing and furnishing industry. Mr Mayo, 42, is finance director of the electronics group GEC.

Yesterday's News of the World published more extracts from a meeting in Spain between Mr Shepherd, Mr Hall and an undercover reporter posing as an Arab businessman interested in setting up a football development programme in the Gulf. The two men have outraged supporters with claims that "Tyneside women are 'dogs'" and that fans were conned into paying £50 for replica shirts that cost £5 to make.

On Tyneside, fans renewed their demands for Mr Shepherd, 56, the club chairman, and Mr Hall, 39, to resign. Mr Shepherd was reported to have left for Barbados before the latest allegations and Mr Hall, a tax exile, was understood to be in Spain.

Graham Courtney, the Newcastle United press officer, said the club would not make any comment about the latest developments.



Hall, left, and Shepherd: the club took on a new status when it was floated on the Stock Market

# Academy plucks archive from the grasp of rivals

BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A LUTE book from which Elizabeth I may have learnt to play is part a precious archive of 16th and 17th-century manuscripts bought by the Royal Academy of Music.

The private collection, assembled over 40 years and never exhibited in public, have been acquired for nearly £1 million after intense competition from Japanese and American buyers.

Scholars say that the archive, compiled by a former professor at the academy, is rivalled only by the British Library in London and the Bodleian in Oxford. Curtis Price, the academy's principal, said: "It would have been a severe blow had this gone abroad. We would have lost, say, 10 per cent of the country's musical heritage."

Hugh Cobbe, music librarian of the British Library, described the collection as unparalleled. The library had been prepared to object to an export licence if the collection had gone to an overseas buyer.

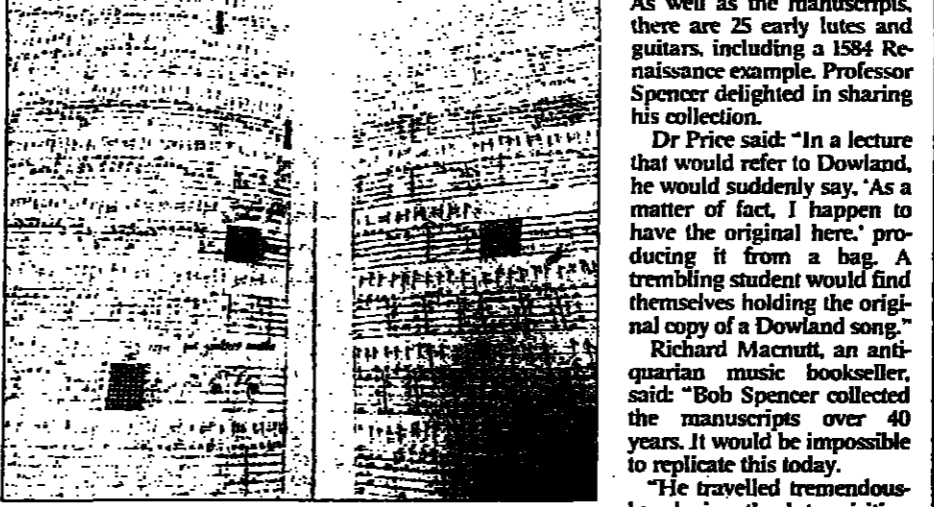
The collection was amassed by Robert Spencer, a prominent promoter of early music, who died last summer. He made his name as a performer on lute and guitar, but was also a scholarly collector of things Elizabethan and Jacobean.

He was determined that the academy should have his collection and his widow, Jill, gave them first refusal. Contributions to the cost included £607,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Mrs Spencer helped the academy by waiving a quarter of the cost.

Among the most valuable items is one of only two surviving musical manuscripts in the hand of John Dowland (1563-1626), the great English composer, singer and lutenist. Dowland's hand appears in a lesson



Elizabeth I playing the lute. The archive includes a book with her coat of arms



within what is known as *The Margaret Board Lute Book*. The book, dating from 1620 to 1630, is believed to have belonged to a young lady from Sussex.

The lesson is on how to interpret scales and the fretboard of the lute. Spencer himself explained in scholarly notes that it contained "quite difficult pieces, reminding us of the playing standard reached by these amateur lady lutenists."

The lavish lute book used at the court of Elizabeth I bears the royal coat of arms. "We know she played the lute and the virginals. We assume this was the book from which she learnt the lute. It's a wonderful, opulent produced book," Dr Price said.

# Massacre of toads leaves bad taste in mouth

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THEY knew who was responsible for the Massacre of Glencoe, but the Massacre of Langholm has experts baffled. Instead of Macdonalds, the victims are toads, at least 200 of them slaughtered, their mutilated bodies left strewn at the bloody scene. The perpetrators of the foul deed may or may not have been Campbells, but they are thought definitely to have been human. A restaurateur is suspected.

When the dead and dying amphibians were found by a river near the Dumfriesshire town last year, it was thought at first that they had fallen victim to attack by predatory animals: rats, mink and even a heron were all put in the frame as potential suspects.

But the case went to the forensic scientists. Andrew Cunningham, a veterinary pathologist at the Institute of Zoology in London, and two colleagues, examined the victims and have now reported their findings in *The Veterinary Record*.

They say tests showed that the toads had been cut across the abdomen and pelvis and the flesh of the hindlegs removed, leaving the skin turned inside-out. More than 200 carcasses were counted, but the pathologists believe that the total death toll could have exceeded 1,000.

They have been working on a frog mortality project, investigating unusual deaths among wild amphibians. About 600 incidents are reported to them each year. In 1993 they investigated a mass slaughter similar to the latest case and found that the deaths of 300 common frogs in a Cheshire country park had been the work of a restaurant owner who had collected them, killed them and passed them off as chicken.

Langholm's toad slaughter was discovered by Robert Shaw, an environmentalist, and his wife, Vicki, who reported the case to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Campbells may have done a terrible deed in Glencoe in 1692, but at least they did not turn their victims into hamburgers.

# Bankruptcy fee challenged

BY FRANCES GIBBS LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor is being taken to court over a rule that requires those who seek bankruptcy to pay a fee of £250. The rule stops many hundreds of poorer people a year from escaping their debts and making a fresh start.

The challenge is being brought by Cleo Lightfoot, 52,

who faces debts of nearly £60,000 after losing her job as a secretary, the break-up of her marriage and incurring a debt after her South London home was repossessed.

She was advised by a specialist money adviser that bankruptcy was the best course of action but, in despair, she cannot afford the fee of £250. Her case is being brought

by the Public Law Project, a charity that helps people gain access to the courts.

Karen Ashton, her solicitor, said: "Although an individual has a statutory right to petition for bankruptcy, many people — often the poorest and most vulnerable — are prevented from exercising that right. The Lord Chancellor should take the opportunity to remove this barrier."

MJN Files | Customers | Service | Technology | Support

## 333MHz Pentium II Processor Based Systems

**For those seeking "Simply The Best"**

Take a closer look at the amazing specifications of MJN's 333MHz systems based on Intel's fastest Pentium® II processor.

Unbeatable specification, performance and price combine to deliver the best value for the power user. Interest Free Credit and a Free Epson 600 or 800 printer make these offers too good to miss!

**MJN 333-2**

- Intel 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 128Mb SDRAM
- 8.4Gb ultra ATA-33 hard drive
- 5Mb AGP X2 ATI Rage Pro (Expert @ World 3D graphics)
- PC-TV system with Teletext and video capture
- 56K Rockwell flash upgradeable voice modem
- Full Videophone including COLOUR Video Camera
- 15" SVGA 0.28dp screen (17" optional extra)
- 32 speed MAX CD-ROM drive
- Creative Labs 3D waveable sound
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- IBM Gold voice recognition
- MJN ATX system with Intel 440LX chipset
- Premium speaker system (not shown)
- Headset microphone and joystick
- Windows 95, and Lotus SmartSuite 97\*
- All standard features including floppy drive, mouse, keyboard, and standard ports
- FREE Epson 600 Colour printer (limited offer)

**£1699**  
**£1996.33** inc.VAT

**MJN 333-2 XL**

- Intel 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 128Mb SDRAM
- 8.4Gb ultra ATA-33 hard disk
- 5Mb AGP X2 ATI Rage Pro (Expert @ World 3D graphics)
- PC-TV system with Teletext and video capture
- 56K Rockwell flash upgradeable voice modem
- Full Videophone including COLOUR Video Camera
- 19" extra large SVGA 0.25 dp screen
- 32 speed MAX CD-ROM drive
- Creative Labs 3D waveable sound
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- IBM Gold voice recognition
- MJN ATX system with Intel 440LX chipset
- Executive subwoofer speaker system (shown), headset microphone and joystick
- Windows 95 and Lotus SmartSuite 97\*
- All standard features including floppy drive, mouse, keyboard, and standard ports
- FREE Epson 800 Colour printer (limited offer)

**£1999**  
**£2348.83** inc.VAT

**FREE Printer**

Epson Stylus 1400 dpi Colour Printer

These are the best 1400 dpi colour printers with photo and colour printing and super sharp mono printing. Epson 800 with 255 dpi model and Epson 600 with 225 dpi model.

Other models to £199.00 each.

**Buy NOW... Pay Sept '98**

**Interest Free Credit**

**0% APR**

Example: MJN 333-2c. Pay just £202.70 deposit and then nothing for 6 months. After 6 months pay the rest. Total price = cash price = £1899 + £25 delivery + VAT = £2025.70. APR 0% only if fully repaid within 6 months. Finance is subject to status. Within details available on request.

**Tel: 01282 777 555**

Telephone Sales Lines Open

**MJN**

The right choice™

Offers End 31st March. All prices exclude delivery (£25) and VAT (£20). \*Optional accessories are provided on CD or pre-installed with on-line documentation. Screen sizes shown are GUT sizes in millimetres. Screen size may vary slightly. Products may be subject to change without notice. Products may be subject to availability. All prices are subject to change without notice. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MJN is a trademark of Intel Corporation. The MJN logo is a registered trademark of MJN Technology Limited, GEC.

## first direct

you don't want to pay...

...so there's no need to. At First Direct, the UK's leading 24 hour telephone bank, everyday banking transactions are free, even if you're overdrawn. We also give you a £250 overdraft facility free of any fees, because we appreciate that from time to time you may need a little flexibility.

you don't want a closed bank...

...so we've never closed. We are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Bank with us by telephone and you can call from anywhere in the UK at any time for the cost of a local call. Which means no long trunks to the high street and no queuing either.

you don't want hassle getting cash...

...so we give you the First Direct Card. This allows you to withdraw up to £500 a day from more than 13,500 cash machines across the UK, including those of Midland. It also guarantees your cheques for £100 and lets you pay by Switch. Paying in is just as easy — at any Midland or direct to us by post.

you don't want hassle paying bills...

...so we pay bills for you. Simply call us, tell us who to pay, how much and when. This way you can easily organise everything to suit you best, then forget it — we'll make all the arrangements.

you don't want poor service...

...so we make sure you never get it. Every call is answered by our friendly and professional Banking Representatives, who will deal immediately with your day-to-day banking needs. And they are supported by specialists ready to help with all of your more complex banking requirements.

you don't want to have to shop around...

...so we make sure you don't have to. You have access to a comprehensive range of direct banking services. These include a fee free Visa Card, a range of saving and borrowing opportunities, a no gimmicks home finance service, along with insurance and travel services too.

you don't want hassle moving...

...so we make it simple to open an account, transfer your salary and other banking transactions. You'll find that as members of the HSBC Group, one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, we provide the best service to our 800,000 customers from day one. And it's easy and free to find out more about 24 hour banking — call now on 0800 24 24 24 or complete the coupon.

## why not bank for free?

Annual current account charges	£0.00
Lloyds Classic	£90.00
NatWest Current Plus	£60.00
Barclays Bank Account	£80.00
First Direct Cheque Account	£0.00

for 24 hour banking call free

## 0800 24 24 24

please quote ref 00015

or complete the coupon and post to:  
**First Direct, FREEMPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

UK Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No \_\_\_\_\_

# Ideology blamed for fall in adoptions

COUPLES applying to adopt children are increasingly being turned down because social workers believe they are too middle-class or have not had sufficient experience of racial prejudice, according to a report today. Some childcare professionals are said to be so prejudiced against adoption that they will find virtually any reason to disqualify many applicants.

The report by Patricia Morgan, a sociologist from the right-wing Institute of Economic Affairs, has split the childcare profession at a time of crisis. Wider use of contraception and abortion, and

Social workers are accused of spoiling youngsters' chances of a better life, reports Alexandra Frean

greater social acceptance for single parenthood, have been partly responsible for a fall in adoptions from 21,000 in 1975 to less than 6,000 by 1995. Baby adoptions fell from 4,500 to 322. At the same time, there is a desperate shortage of adoptive parents willing to take on the children who are available for adoption. Most are older, and many are disabled or have suffered neglect or abuse. Some children wait up to eight years for a family. Ms Morgan believes that entrenched ideologies which emphasise the absolute rights of biological parents have contributed to the sharp downturn in adoption in the Nineties. Youngsters spend long periods in care, often shuttled from one foster family to another, because social workers spend too long trying to reunite them with their birth families, she says.

The most hopeless and even abusive parents are given limitless time and resources," Ms Morgan said. "By the time the children are

finally made free for adoption, they are so damaged that they are not adoptable." She believes one of the biggest failures lies in the opposition among childcare professionals to transracial adoptions, where parents of one race adopt a child of another. The shortage of adoptive parents from ethnic minorities and the insistence on matching racial profiles means that many children will stay in care for years, and possibly their childhood.

Ms Morgan is urging ministers to take adoption away from local-authority social services and hand it to independent, voluntary organisations. If a child in care cannot be returned to a parent within 12 months, she believes they should be automatically made available for adoption. In exceptional circumstances, the period could be extended to 24 months. Any child left voluntarily in council care for six months would be treated as abandoned.

British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, said: "The first family of choice for any child is their own family. Birth parents sometimes need help or support. To institute a fixed time limit in favour of adoption is too arbitrary. She said that social workers and adoption agencies found families for half the 5,000 children a year who become free for adoption, and conceded: "Some children wait too long and this is not acceptable. The fault lies not in ideology, but in the

failure of some authorities to plan effectively for the children in their care and to make resources available for recruiting the very special adoptive families now needed." Keith Bilton, chairman of the children and families sub-committee of the British Association of Social Workers, said some children probably remained in care too long, but many would be very difficult to place with adoptive families. "There is a huge supply and demand problem. The kind of children available for adoption are not always the kind that couples and looking for."

PAUL SLATER

## Siblings who want to stay together face a longer wait

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

JOANNE Brimacombe, 14, went into care at the age of three. She lived with three foster families until she was adopted when she was seven by Marilyn and Mike Brimacombe, who also adopted her sisters, Ann-Marie, 11, and Josephine, 10. "Being in different foster homes wasn't that bad for me because I was in the same school all the time. But I felt that I was on the move all the time and I wanted to stay with one family in one place. I felt a bit like a piece of luggage being passed from one person to the next," Joanne said.

take the three sisters was difficult. "A lot of people wanted to adopt just me or just two of us," Joanne said. "I don't think I could ever have felt the same if I had not been with my sisters. I helped to look after them and felt I had to protect them." Joanne, who enjoys sport and is learning the piano, believes that being adopted has given her opportunities she would not otherwise have had. "I don't think my real mother could look after us all. She had lots of problems. Now I'm in a normal family and I'm very happy. It's great."

adopted a fourth daughter, Sarah, 7, said: "There are so many children out there with siblings who need to be adopted. But not many people can or want to take them on. We are so happy that we did." Other children struggle to find adoptive families even though they are alone. Clare, who will be five next month, has been waiting for adoption since the age of four months. She is described as a friendly and energetic girl with a great sense of fun. She enjoys cycling and playing outdoors. Clare, however, needs a family with persistence and a lot of energy because she is developmentally delayed and has poor concentration and listening skills. After a hard search, her adoption agency, Parents for Children, believes a suitable family may now have been found.



Shane and Kelvin are waiting for a home together

Still waiting for a permanent family are Kelvin, 5, and Shane, 4. The brothers, who have been fostered since 1995, can be demanding when together and social workers believe that their adoptive parents will need to have a supportive extended family to help with their care. Kelvin, described as appealing and affectionate, has an expressive speech disorder and attends a school for children with severe learning difficulties. He is affectionate, but sometimes lacks confidence to try new things. Shane is slightly developmentally delayed and sometimes finds it hard to share toys. For information about adopting Kelvin and Shane or other children, telephone 0171-593 2060/112.



Joanne Brimacombe, left, found a family that adopted her sisters, Josephine and Ann-Marie, too. Some parents wanted only one or two of them

### THE LEGAL PROCESS FOR JOINING A NEW FAMILY

ADOPTION is a legal procedure in which all parental responsibility for a child is transferred (Alexandra Frean writes). An adoption cannot be reversed, except in exceptional circumstances. An adopted child loses all legal ties with his or her birth parents and becomes a full member of the new family, usually taking on their surname. Most children available for adoption are in local authority care, either with

foster parents or in a children's home. Sometimes step-parents adopt the children from the previous marriage of their new husband or wife. In other cases, people adopt the child of a close relative. Adopters must be aged over 21 and able to show they can give a child the care he or she needs. Because demand outstrips supply, adoption agencies can afford to impose strict conditions. Most agencies will place healthy babies only

with married couples who can prove that they are unable to have children of their own. They often give an upper age limit of between 35 and 40. Some will not accept people who have been divorced and most expect the couple's marriage to have lasted at least three years. Adoption agencies agree that, wherever possible, a child should be brought up in a family of the same ethnic background as the birth parents.



## THE MAREA, A FIAT THAT'S BIGGER THAN YOU'D THINK.

Just one look at the Marea's photogenic curves speaks volumes. Especially in terms of cubic feet. Like all Fiats, class-leading design means it's extremely roomy for its size. But the Marea is surprisingly big on the outside too. Big enough to give you all the comfort you'll need to make a long haul seem like a

short hop. And just in case anyone gets even the slightest bit restless on their journey, we've added a height adjustable driver's seat, power steering and an RDS stereo cassette as standard. Spoiling our drivers doesn't stop there. The Marea offers a huge choice of engines

from the frugal 1.6 16v to the smooth, brawny 5 cylinder, 2 litre 20v. There's even a choice of superb turbo diesels. There's less choosing to be done when it comes to advanced safety features. A driver's airbag, a rigid safety cell, reinforced crumple zones, a third brake light and side impact bars come as

standard on every Marea. Further peace of mind can be found with an on the road price starting at £12,699\* and 0% finance available over 3 years with a 35% deposit. Just call 0800 71 7000, <http://www.fiat.co.uk> or visit your local Fiat dealer for more information, but be prepared to get more than you bargained for.

FIAT MAREA

DRIVEN BY PASSION **FIAT**

\*ON SHOW, NOT MAINTENANCE, TAX, LICENCE, OR INSURANCE. ALL PRICES ON THE ROAD. WITH FINANCE. FROM MARCH 2000. EXCLUDING VAT, REGISTRATION, DELIVERY, AND DELIVERY TO DEALER. EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED. FINANCE OFFERINGS SUBJECT TO CREDIT ASSESSMENT. RATES AND FEES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. CREDIT OFFER AVAILABLE ONLY TO UK RESIDENTS. FINANCE OFFER SUBJECT TO CREDIT ASSESSMENT. FINANCE OFFER SUBJECT TO CREDIT ASSESSMENT. FINANCE OFFER SUBJECT TO CREDIT ASSESSMENT. FINANCE OFFER SUBJECT TO CREDIT ASSESSMENT. FINANCE OFFER SUBJECT TO CREDIT ASSESSMENT.



# Indoctrination fear over lessons on citizenship

GOVERNMENT plans for citizenship education, to be outlined this week, could be manipulated by a future administration to introduce Nazi-style indoctrination of children, a headmasters' leader said yesterday.

Patrick Tobin, who chairs the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, which includes most leading independent schools, voiced his concern after a senior government adviser had predicted a growing role for the programme in a society in which Christianity had become a "minority interest".

Michael Barber, who heads the standards and effectiveness unit at the Department of Education and Employment, told the annual conference of the Secondary Heads Association in Birmingham that schools would play a crucial role in transmitting ethical principles "in the absence of God and Marx" and that the citizenship programme would be a key influence. Professor Barber said: "Progressively,

**John O'Leary**  
on concern that governments could abuse new 'faithless' ethics classes

over the past 200 years, the belief systems which sustained Western societies have crumbled away.

"Christianity has become a minority interest; still hugely influential, historically and culturally, but no longer able to claim unquestioning obedience. The vigour and urgency with which we are seeking to modernise our education system is driven in part by the need to compete in a global market, but at least as much surely by moral outrage at the rootlessness of so much modern life and by a belief that, together, we can and must do better if the generation currently in our schools is to find fulfilment. I am looking for an ethos that can be shared by people who have religious beliefs and those who do not."

Mr Tobin, principal of Daniel Stowarts, said: "Melville College, Edinburgh, said there were dangers that citizenship would be seen as a substitute for Christianity. Without a clear moral framework, the new programme to be announced on Wednesday would be open to manipulation by politicians."

Mr Tobin said: "The last

thing we want to do is to get into a state of mind, as with the French Revolution or the Russian Revolution or Nazi Germany, that the important thing is to make the teachers deliver to the children a particular view of society.

"When we are up against the greed and acquisitiveness we see in society now, we need something rather more compelling than a lot of middle-aged men agreeing that *altruism is good*."

Government sources said there were no plans to alter religious education and ministers had been careful to ensure that the citizenship programme was developed with cross-party agreement. Professor Bernard Crick, who chairs the group responsible for the proposals, said its report would include suggestions for ensuring that the Government of the day did not control the programme. Schools would be left to build up their own syllabus in line with broad objectives.



Tim Reynolds setting out yesterday on one of his last trips to tend the oil lamps

# End of the line for lamps that outran steam age

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

FOR more than 140 years, oil lamps have lit the semaphore signals at two railway stations in Somerset. Their basic but durable technology has outlasted the steam era and the birth and death of British Rail.

The long-serving lamps will, however, be overtaken by modern technology by the end of the month after a Railtrack decision to replace them with battery-powered equipment.

The oil-lit semaphore signals at Yeovil Pen Mill and Yeovil Junction, which help to guide drivers through the darkness, are believed to be the last in full-time use on the rail network.

Every other day since the stations were opened in 1857, a signaller has braved the elements to top up the 24 lamps with paraffin and trim their wicks.

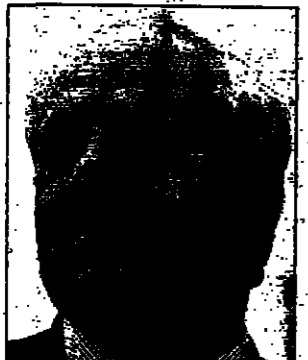
Tim Reynolds, 33, said: "I have done it in rain and snow and howling wind, but I don't mind. You could get through a box of matches trying to light the lamps when it was

windy, so I use a cigarette lighter instead. It will be a great shame when they have gone, but you can't stop the advance of technology. It is nearly the end of the 1990s and time we moved on."

John Penny, signalling manager at Yeovil, said: "We always moan about having to do it, but it's worthwhile. The line will certainly lose some of its nostalgia; it's another piece of our rail history gone for ever."

Tim Bryan, curator of the Great Western Railway Museum in Swindon, said the lamps' longevity was a testament to good design. "It shows you how durable the technology in the steam era was. They are still reasonably bright when you consider how old they are but they are nothing compared with modern lights."

"Most of the others around the country have been replaced and these could well be the last surviving ones. It will be sad to see them go but you cannot stop technology marching on."



Tobin: teachers should not deliver state view

# Ministers may get own 'sleazebuster'

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR is ready to appoint a new "sleazebuster" to police the activities of ministers. The task could go to Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, the public standards watchdog, as an additional role.

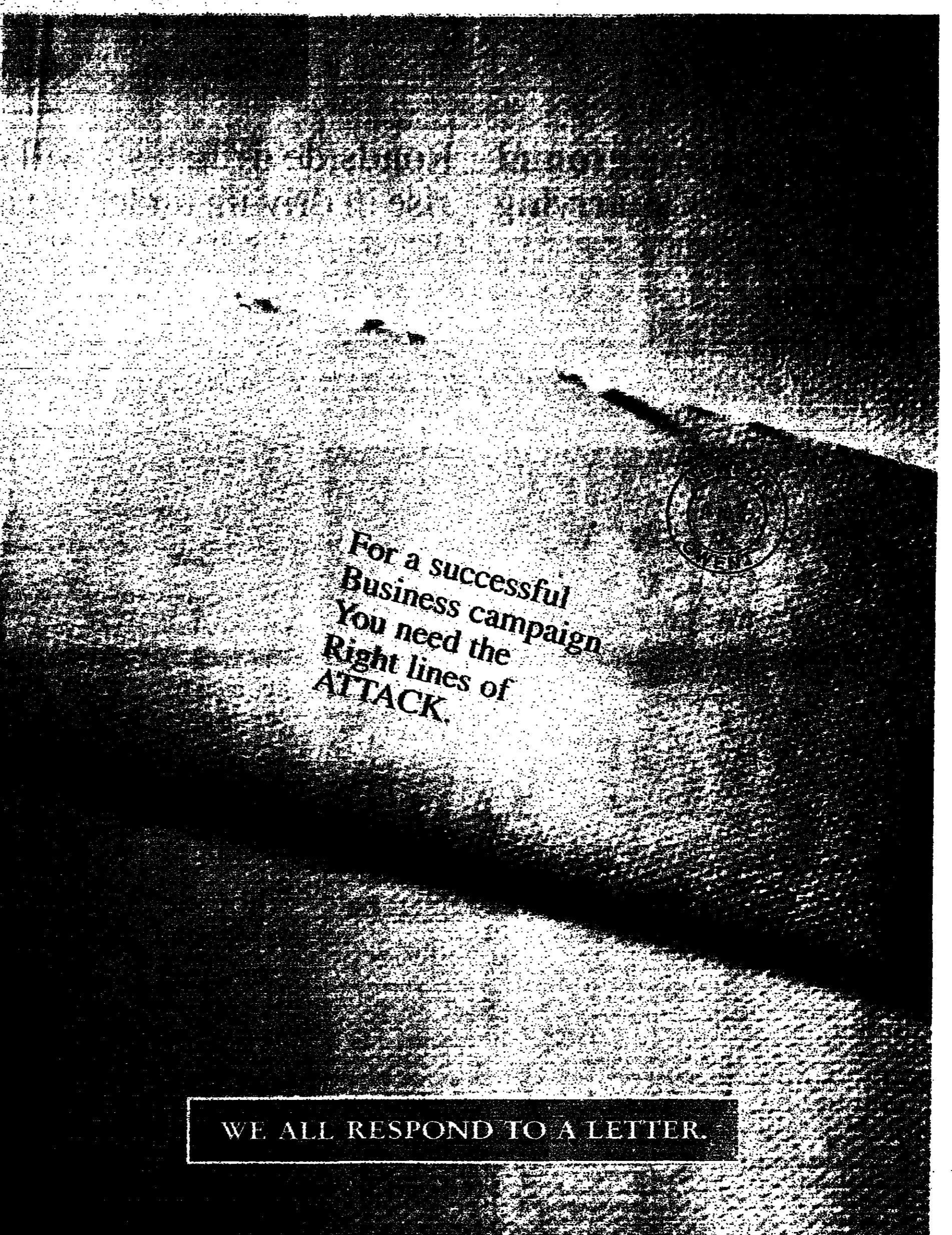
The job description of ethics adviser is being drawn up by Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary. His findings are expected to be included in a report examining central government machinery, expected after Easter.

It is unlikely that such a role would be a full-time job: the ethics adviser or commissioner would be brought in when required. Ministers would be

able to seek advice on any potential conflict of interest and the adviser could also investigate any allegations about a minister.

Lord Neill, for example, was asked to advise on the £1 million donation from Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One chief. He gave his opinion within 48 hours.

The case for an ethics adviser has gained support in the Government as a result of such recent controversies. The growing view in Whitehall is that ministers should no longer turn to their most senior departmental official for advice.



For a successful Business campaign You need the Right lines of ATTACK.

WE ALL RESPOND TO A LETTER.

With FAAC gate systems quality comes automatically

For simple convenience and security reassurance at the touch of a button fit the best automated gate systems from FAAC.

For further details call 0800-454567

Supported by a national network of approved installers

**FAAC** Authorized Distributors

Visit our website at [www.faac.co.uk](http://www.faac.co.uk)

**H**oney,  
I shrunk the car insurance!

Call the Motor Insurance Hotline now to see if you can shrink yours.

**0345 123 111**  
Please quote ref. NPA

**Hill House Hammond**  
Over 200 branches nationwide

For advice on using letters more effectively in your business, send your name and address to 'FREEPOST ROYAL MAIL INFO. PACK'



# University's cinema faces last picture show

JOHN Maynard Keynes, the founder of Cambridge's Arts Trust, would have hated to see the economic chaos in which his legacy now finds itself. The Cambridge Arts Cinema which, along with the Arts Theatre, makes up the trust, is up for sale and even the great economist himself would have struggled to understand how this sorry saga came to pass.

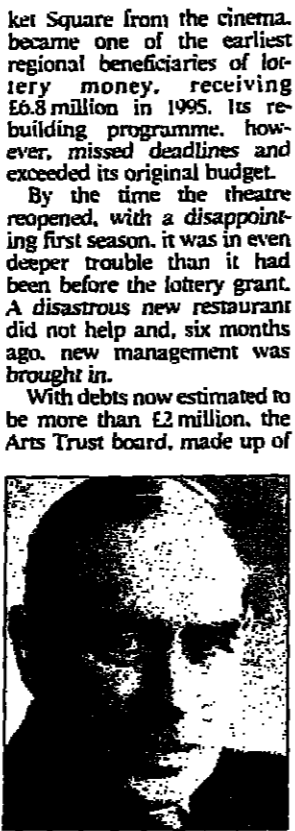
Tucked away in Market Passage, a short walk from eight of the largest colleges, the Arts Cinema is bang in the centre of town and has been an essential part of university life, and the site of countless undergraduate trysts, since it opened in 1947.

Ludwig Wittgenstein used to bring his tutorial classes there, insisting they all sat in the front row. Most importantly, however, it has been one of the finest repertory cinemas in the country, showing a wide programme of high-brow cinema and hosting lectures and first-screenings by almost every leading European and American art-house director. It also runs a lively education programme.

Severe financial difficulties at the Arts Theatre, however, have meant that the Arts Trust has decided the cinema must be sold. After the initial shock, local residents, from the university and city, are banding together to try to save it.

The current crisis dates back to the moment when the Arts Theatre, across the Mar-

Cambridge's celebrated haunt for high-brow filmgoers is up for sale. Philip Delves Broughton reports



Keynes: the founder of Cambridge Arts Trust

ket Square from the cinema, became one of the earliest regional beneficiaries of lottery money, receiving £6.8 million in 1995. Its rebuilding programme, however, missed deadlines and exceeded its original budget.

By the time the theatre reopened, with a disappointing first season, it was in even deeper trouble than it had been before the lottery grant. A disastrous new restaurant did not help and, six months ago, new management was brought in.

With debts now estimated to be more than £2 million, the Arts Trust board, made up of university and local business leaders, decided that the only way out was to sell the cinema, which, if bought by retailers or for office space, could fetch in excess of £1 million.

The announcement of its decision two weeks ago precipitated the resignation of François Ballay, the cinema's general manager, who has since gone to French Guyana to forget about the whole business.

Claire Preston, admissions tutor and English Fellow at Sidney Sussex College, is marshalling the university's counter-attack. "Our first objective is to save the cinema on its present site," she said.

That would require the raising of enough money to buy the site at a price equal to or more than that offered by a commercial business. After that, more money would be needed for the refurbishment of the cinema, either from donations or the lottery.

Her campaign already has the support of Cambridge alumni such as the actor and writer Stephen Fry, John Madden, the director of Mrs Brown, and Christopher Frayling, Rector of the Royal College of Art.

The campaign, however,

may already be futile. Before it decided to sell the cinema, the Arts Trust, along with its funding bodies on the local and district councils, agreed to set up a new independent trust, to be called the Cambridge Film Foundation.

Richard Jarman, the general manager of the theatre, said: "We were very anxious that what went on at the cinema should not be lost." This new trust, it is hoped, will work with City Screen, a company that hopes to build a new three-screen arts cinema above a pub on the old ABC cinema site.

If planning permission is granted on April 1, work will start on the new cinema, which should pick up on most of the work currently done at the Arts Cinema, but on a grander scale, with better equipment and wider opportunities for educational work.

Tony Jones, the head of City Screen, said: "It is unfair that we are being deprived as the commercial business crushing the Arts Cinema. I know we will deliver a good arts programme, good opportunities for the educational department and we will give the Cambridge Film Festival a real kick."

For many in the city, however, it will be a sad day when the courting couples and Eisenstein buffs have to take their pleasure not in the faded splendour of Market Passage but above that very modern phenomenon, the family pub.



Mark Doran, a campaigner to save the cinema, seeking signatures to a petition

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Prison escape plot is foiled

Police have foiled an alleged plot to break prisoners out of a high-security jail. A man was arrested on suspicion of planning to blast a hole in the wall of Whitemoor prison at March, Cambridgeshire, and fly six inmates to freedom by helicopter. Prison Service sources said he was a former officer at the jail.

Cambridgeshire Police said that a 33-year-old man from Bury St Edmunds, who was arrested on March 2, had been questioned and released on bail.

#### Steroids charge

A bodybuilder has been charged with possession of steroids with intent to supply. Graham Black, 34, of Newbury, Berkshire, allegedly meant to supply testosterone. Last month Jo Amies-Winter, a bodybuilder, died of a cocaine overdose in his home.

#### Violence at hunt

Violent clashes between huntmen and saboteurs marked the final day of the hunting season, leading to 21 arrests. Two supporters of the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt were taken to the Stoke Mandeville Hospital; one was detained overnight.

#### Crash deaths

A mother and daughter and a teenage girl were killed in a four-car pile-up at Bells Yew Green, East Sussex. Zoe Mepham, 16; Alison Furnell, 25; and her mother Frances, 54, died. A 19-year-old driver was seriously injured and two other drivers suffered shock.

#### Biggs treated

The Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs has been discharged from hospital in Rio de Janeiro after being admitted last week with weakness in one hand and difficulty with his speech. A family friend said that he was suffering from exhaustion and not from a stroke.

#### Song choice

This year's UK entry for the Eurovision Song Contest is to be Imran singing *Where Are You?* by Scott English - who wrote *Mandy* for Barry Manilow - Simon Sterling and Phil Manikva, who have also written for the Irish band OTT.

#### Church bequest

A couple who had told their priest that his church's future would be secured when they died have left £200,000 to St Mary's in Enville, Staffordshire. Eddie Bax, who died in 1994, and his wife, Lily, who died last year, had no children.

## Ancient hunting ground threatened by quarrying

By NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S oldest hunting forest is under threat from quarrying projects, it emerged yesterday.

Campaigners in the Forest of Dean are accusing the Government and the Prime Minister of backsliding on pre-election pledges to give it special protection. Gloucestershire County Council is being required by the Government

to find 44.4 million tonnes of hard rock by 2006 to meet the needs of road building and other construction schemes. About six sites have been earmarked within the forest and the lower Wye Valley.

Peter Chard, a retired headmaster who is spearheading opposition, said yesterday that campaigners had been dismayed by the Government's stance. Last year Frank Dobson, then the Shadow Environment Minister, pledged at a public meeting that a Labour

government would declare the Forest of Dean an area with special conservation status. On Thursday about 30,000 postcards demanding that Tony Blair meet the pre-election pledge will be delivered to 10 Downing Street by digger.

Mr Chard said that, if the schemes were approved, it would leave large areas scarred and extra noise from heavy goods vehicles and excavation in an area visited by millions of tourists annually.

## Roadside drug tests will examine rise in driving under the influence

POLICE forces begin trials today on roadside drug tests amid growing evidence that many motorists are driving under the influence of cannabis or harder illegal substances.

Two types of kit for screening drivers are being tested by traffic police in Teesside, Lancashire, Strathclyde and Sussex. Motorists will be asked to volunteer for the tests on the understanding that they will not be identified or prosecuted. No driver will be

### Police begin voluntary screening trials, writes Stewart Tendler

stopped specifically to take part in the trials.

The tests will be carried out only on drivers who are stopped for a check on their vehicle, or for a breath test, and then cleared of any possible offence. After the test, they will be asked for their impression of the kits and the tests. Police also hope to discover whether the kits can be used at night or in wet conditions.

Each kit will be tested for five weeks. Today traffic police will start using the German-developed "Drug-wipe". Police will wipe an impregnated swab across the forehead or neck of a driver. The swab will then show the presence of a drug in the bloodstream. The second kit will be tested later and involves taking a saliva sample.

At the moment, neither of the tests can be used in court as evidence. They cannot show the extent of the drugs in the bloodstream and further tests would have to be taken. Drivers can be prosecuted for being in possession of a vehicle under the influence of drugs, but it is not always easy to define the effect of the drugs. Traces can remain in the bloodstream and they may not impair driving: traces of cannabis can remain in the body for four weeks although the driver would behave normally again long before traces of the drug vanished.

The tests were announced last month by Baroness Hayman, the Transport Minister, as government researchers continued to work on evidence of the extent of drug use by drivers. A long-running project is under way

### Police begin voluntary screening trials, writes Stewart Tendler

involving post-mortem tests on drivers killed in accidents.

The latest results show that one in five drivers killed on the roads had traces of an illegal substance, most commonly cannabis, in their bloodstream. The survey also found that one in three drivers had sufficient alcohol in their bloodstream to impair their driving ability.

Police sources say that legislation to introduce drug screening will be difficult to frame and is not imminent.

A Scottish police force involved in testing CS gas sprays has begun an investigation after officers working where the sprays are stored fell ill. William McLeay, chief medical officer of Strathclyde Police, is heading the inquiry. Civilian employees at Baird Street police office in Glasgow complained of coughing, fits and swollen, itchy eyes. The gas canisters were taken away for examination, but none appeared to have been leaking.

COMPUTER BEST BUY

# "Oozes Quality"

"Outstanding Good Value"

**£999** (£1173.33 inc. VAT)

**233MHz!** Intel Pentium II Processor 233 MHz

**64Mb** Ultra Fast SDRAM

**6.4Gb** Ultra DMA Hard Disk Drive

**"Outstanding good value. Our winner is the MESH. It has a superior monitor, 64Mb RAM and the AWE 64 value Sound Card. The documentation you get is the best in the bunch and the hard disk is brilliantly big and fast. The modem and software haven't been forgotten either. The overall package is definitely the best here. Every single component of this PC oozes quality."**

**Overall Rating** ★★★★★  
**Basic Configuration** ★★★★★  
**Ergonomics** ★★★★★  
**Performance** ★★★★★

Computer Buyer BEST BUY April 98

**MESH Connect PII 233M**

**It's FAST**

- Intel Pentium II Processor 233MHz
- 512Kb Pipeline Burst Mode Cache
- 3432X Speed CD ROM Drive

**Amazing CAPACITY**

- 64 MByte Ultra Fast SDRAM
- 6.4Gb Ultra DMA Hard Disk Drive

**Stunning GRAPHICS**

- 15" (max resolution 1600x1200) Monitor
- 4Mb SPERT/Work AIP Graphics

**Superb SOUND**

- Soundblaster LIVE 64 Sound
- 50W Stereo Amplified Speakers

**Internet READY**

- 56Kbps VozelFax modem
- Pipex Internet Access\*

**Free SOFTWARE**

- Award Winning Lotus SmartSuite 97

**FREE 12 months Warranty**

**FREE Lifetime Telephone Support**

**3 WAYS TO PAY!**

**Pay Today**

0% interest

**UNDER £30 PER WEEK**

Pay over 9 weeks

10% Deposit: £117.33 and then pay £28.26 per month for 36 months. Total Price: £1173.33 (inc. VAT)

20% Deposit: £234.66 and then pay £21.50 per month for 36 months. Total Price: £1173.33 (inc. VAT)

30% Deposit: £351.99 and then pay £14.77 per month for 36 months. Total Price: £1173.33 (inc. VAT)

**MESH COMPUTERS PLC**

MESH House, Apollo Way, London NW2 7NF  
 Tel: 0181 452 1111 Fax: 0181 208 4493  
 Email: sales@meshpc.co.uk  
 www.meshpc.co.uk

## Abusers fail to seek help early enough

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

ADOLESCENTS who regularly use illegal drugs by the age of 15 often fail to seek help if they get into difficulties until they are in their twenties, according to a report today.

Peter Martin, chief executive of the charity Addiction, which carried out the survey, said: "Drug use is a normal event in our society... Over half of all 15 to 16-year-olds have tried or been offered drugs. Three quarters of a million youngsters are regular Ecstasy users and of these more than one in ten will go on to harder drugs."

Mr Martin added that the seven-year gap between starting on drugs and recognising the need for help showed that drug education should be targeted at young people during their formative years.

The study found that 68 per cent of 504 people using drug rehabilitation services had first used cannabis at an early age. About 88 per cent were taking heroin when they first thought they had a drug problem, compared with only 27 per cent who were taking cannabis.

# mortgage protection...

costs less if you are in the public sector.

When arranging mortgage protection required by your lender, why not shop around and save money? Talk to Zurich Municipal. With our Mortgage Protection Policy, your repayment mortgage will be paid off should you die. We don't pay our staff commission - and you'll automatically receive a 15% discount if you work in the public sector.

One phone call is usually all it takes to arrange immediate cover. And it's just as easy to top-up your protection later on if you move home. Call today for a free, no-obligation quotation.

**life insurance 0800 147 147**

Lines Open: 9am-8pm Mon to Fri, 9am-1pm Sat.

Please quote the reference TIM2303

For your security all telephone calls on the above number will be recorded and randomly monitored. Cover and premiums are subject to individual assessment.

**ZURICH MUNICIPAL**

\*Not available in Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man.

Zurich Municipal is a trading name of Zurich Insurance Company, a limited company incorporated in Switzerland. UK branch registered in England, No. 09105. Zurich Municipal is also a trading name of Zurich Life Assurance Company Limited, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority, for life assurance and investment business. Zurich Municipal members of the Financial Services Authority are not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Zurich Life Assurance Company Limited is registered in England, No. 07123. Registered Office: Zurich House, Victoria Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 1DU.

**The Best Name for Car Insurance**

Call 6898 88 41 21

**ServiceLine**

# Party revolt spreads as Mugabe gags rebels

**PRESIDENT MUGABE** of Zimbabwe has emerged discredited and weakened from a crucial meeting of his ruling Zanu (PF) party at the weekend where he launched a ferocious attempt to crush the new mood of open debate and criticism rising in the organisation.

He ordered the denunciation of an outspoken senior MP, who had argued in parliament for a limit to the President's stay in office, but his extraordinary display of enraged intolerance has turned the bulk of the party against him, sources at the closed meeting of the 150-member central committee said yesterday.

It was the latest in a series of blows to the 74-year-old President's waning authority. Shortly before the central committee meeting, a march by party supporters to demonstrate his "mass support" managed to rally scarcely 1,000 people, against the tens of thousands who have demonstrated against the Government in recent months. Last Tuesday, he suffered a serious defeat at the hands of his Cabinet which overruled his plan to seize 1,472 white-owned farms for redistribution among blacks. The sources said that, in the face of President Mugabe's protests, the Cabinet agreed to abide by the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund that the Government compensate farmers for land confiscated.

Mr Mugabe's bungled intervention in the economy and his militant, racist rhetoric that have pushed the country into economic crisis are being acknowledged by senior party loyalists. A minister who recently visited Europe on an investment promotion tour admitted privately that he was unable to answer businessmen when they demanded explanations of Mr Mugabe's policies.

Members of the party central committee were, aghast at the weekend as he inveighed against "rebels" by "infidels, evil schem-

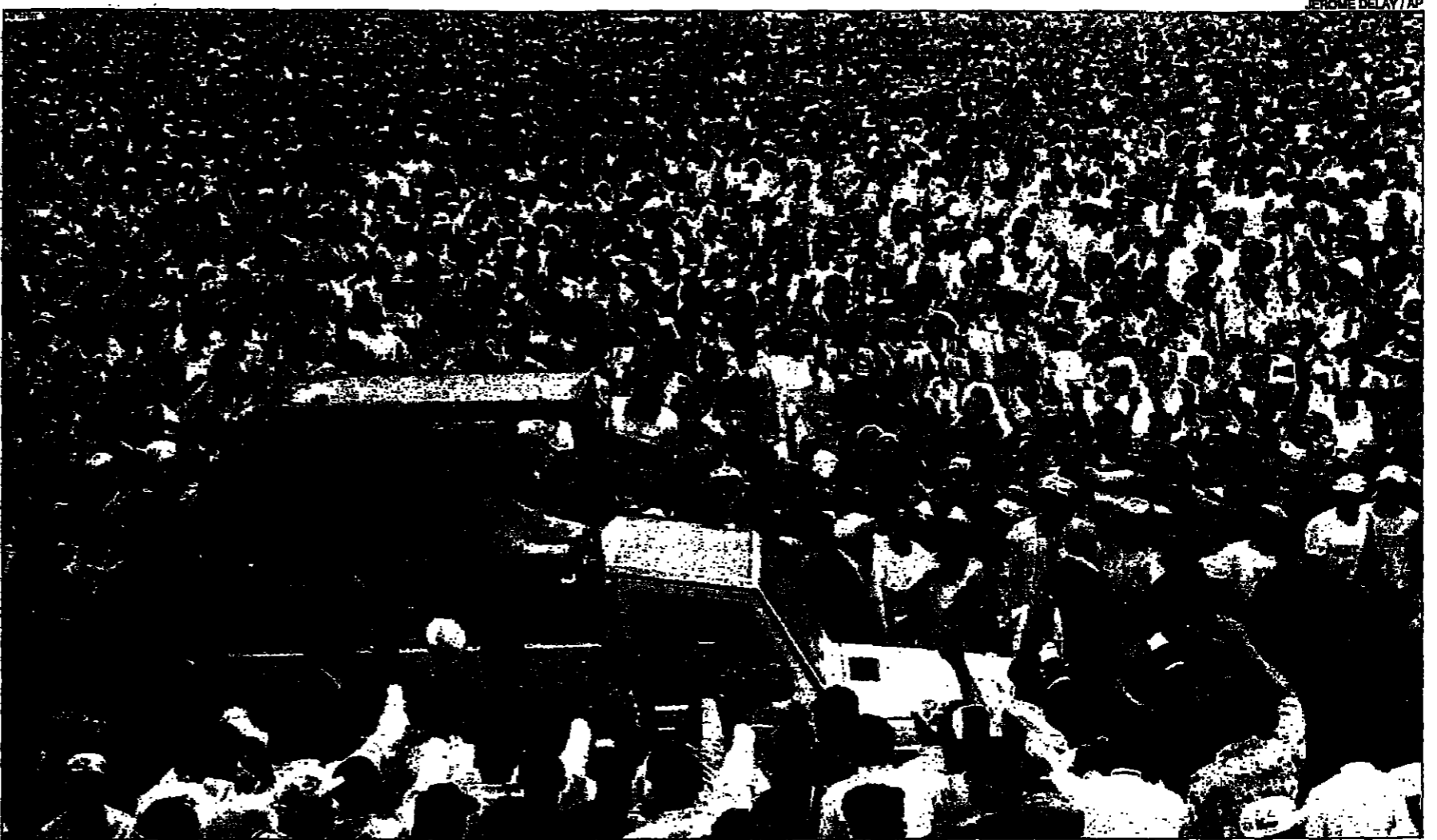
**The President is hitting out at his Cabinet and critics.**

**Jan Raath in Harare writes**

ers and political saboteurs" plotting to overthrow the Government. "There are witches among us," he said — a remark that came two weeks after it was revealed that he had been consulting spirit mediums for advice on how to appease angry ancestral spirits.

The chief target of his rhetoric was Dzikamayi Mavhaire, the MP who, during a debate in parliament on "constitutional reform" last month, uttered the words: "Mugabe must go." Mr Mavhaire has been stripped by the party politburo of his position as Zanu (PF) chairman in the populous and influential province of Masvingo, and barred from holding any rank in the party for two years. Also accused of "collusion" in the alleged conspiracy is Cyril Ndebele, the Speaker, for telling the politburo that it had no legal right to subject Mr Mavhaire to a disciplinary inquiry for remarks that were protected by parliamentary privilege. His fate is still under discussion by the politburo.

The sources said that members from Mr Mugabe's small home province and from Harare rallied against Mr Mavhaire, and called for punishment more severe than that already meted out. Delegates from the rest of the country maintained a silence, refusing to be drawn in, the sources said. The exception was Robert Marara, a Mugabe loyalist, who told the President that he was "playing with fire" by ignoring the crisis facing the country.



The Pope rides in the Popemobile through a dense crowd of pilgrims in Onitsha, Nigeria, yesterday before beatifying Father Cyprian Iwene Tansi, below

## Million Nigerians see Pope beatify monk

FROM SAM KILEY IN OBA

THE Pope gave his Church in Nigeria, and African Catholicism in general, a boost yesterday by beatifying a priest and monk, Cyprian Iwene Tansi, the first Nigerian embarked on the preliminary stage to sainthood.

"Blessed Cyprian Tansi is a prime example of the fruits of holiness which have grown and matured in the Church in Nigeria since the Gospel was first proclaimed in this land," the Pope

said in an address to more than a million Catholics gathered for his first Mass in Nigeria since 1982.

Father Cyprian, an ascetic who died at Mount Bernard Abbey, Leicester, in 1964, chose a religious career against the wishes of his family, who had only recently converted to Christianity. He was a product of the success of the early days of Catholicism in Nigeria, which began in 1885 with the arrival of the Holy Ghost missionaries who rowed up the Niger river in search of souls to convert.

Father Cyprian managed to

establish a close relationship with the Vatican from his humble outpost. One of his earliest pupils at schools he established in the east of Nigeria was Africa's most senior Catholic churchman, Cardinal Francis Arinze, tipped by Vatican experts as an outside runner to succeed John Paul II. Father Cyprian baptised the future cardinal, who has been accompanying the Pope on his tour.

Among the requirements for beatification is an exemplary record as a Catholic and the ability to perform a miracle. Father

Cyprian appears to have been no exception. Philomena, a mother of two who attended yesterday's Mass, is believed to have been cured of childhood cancer by the monk in the early 1950s. There was no shortage of young men claiming to have been the priest's house-boy and offering journalists an interview for a fee. As one priest, shooting the youngsters away, commented: "The father didn't have servants. That was the whole point about him."

William Rees-Mogg, page 22



## Call for new Springbok boycott to break 'grip of tyrant' on rugby

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S white-run rugby union is facing expulsion from the country's National Sports Council (NSC) after President Mandela's appearance in court to justify his decision to investigate its affairs.

Pressure to expel the South African Rugby Football Union

(Sarf) and replace it with another organisation is building in the run-up to a meeting of the council in Pretoria. Council officials are angry about Sarf's failure to transform itself and rugby in the spirit of the new South Africa and are deeply concerned about allegations of corruption, nepotism and mismanagement surrounding Louis Luyt, the union's president and a close friend of successive

apartheid Presidents. "The time has come for many officials who could make a contribution to the transformation of rugby to be liberated from the grip of Dr Luyt," said Bill Jardine, the NSC's president in Gauteng province. "He has had a tyrant's hold for too long."

Mr Jardine said at the weekend that a group of concerned rugby officials were starting a campaign to turn local rugby around. They

are preparing to call on the International Rugby Board to revive the anti-Springbok boycott that prevented the national team from participating in international matches under apartheid. The NSC is also expected to ask the board to take action against Sarf, while boycotts of sponsors will be stepped up.

Another proposal on the table is to scrap the Springbok emblem.

Mvuso Mbebe, chief executive of the NSC, said the council would be "under extreme pressure" to review its decision to permit rugby to continue using the Springbok.

In 1996 an NSC commission recommended that the Springbok emblem be scrapped, but this proposal was overturned after a plea by President Mandela, who has tried to use sport as a vehicle for reconciliation.

# VOTED "TOP AIRLINE TO NORTH AMERICA".

## And the gold goes nicely with our logo.

We're honoured. At the 1998 European Travel Awards, we picked up the Travel Trade Gazette Europe Gold award. Chosen by travel industry professionals from 18 countries across Europe. Indeed, the award reflects the fact that we set a shining example.

Work Hard. Fly Right.

# with American Express you get a lot more than the bare necessities.

It's not just a bear that can rest at ease with this great offer. American Express have made it even simpler for you and your family to enjoy the fun when you visit Disneyland Paris. Book a stay between 19 April and 5 July 1998 and you'll receive a free hotel upgrade along with extra free Service Magique benefits. All calculated to make your visit just that little bit more enjoyable.

**Free upgrade to first class accommodation.** With the American Express 'Wonderful World' offer you'll get first-class treatment throughout your stay. Cardmembers will receive a free upgrade to the four star luxury of the Hotel New York or the turn-of-the-century Victorian elegance of the Disneyland Hotel. All for the price of stays at Disneyland Paris' mid-range hotels.

**Service Magique.** In addition to your free hotel upgrade, exclusive Service Magique benefits are available to all American Express Cardmembers whenever you visit. These include discounts on merchandise, free lunches for children, free drinks at your hotel, complimentary souvenirs and special privileges at the Planet Hollywood restaurant at the resort.

**1998: The Year of Disney Classics.** 1998 is a special year at Disneyland Paris as they will be celebrating Disney's animation legacy of 35 full feature classics. Special new entertainment featuring the Disney Classic stars from Snow White to Hercules will complement your usual Disneyland Paris favourites from over 50 attractions in the five magical lands.



For example, the new Wonderful World of Disney parade actually allows children to play a role in the most memorable scenes from Disney's greatest classics. And the new Winnie the Pooh show will transport you to Christopher Robin's childhood days with the 'filly old bear' and his delightful friends.

**The magic continues - even when you get home.** With this offer, the magic and benefits don't end when you leave. That's because included in your Service Magique coupons you'll find a special offer that gives you three tickets for the price of two to Disney's Beauty and the Beast musical at the Dominion Theatre in London.

To book simply call Disneyland Paris directly at the number below, quoting the American Express 'Wonderful World' offer, and pay with your American Express Card. Alternatively see your American Express travel agent. A free hotel upgrade, Service Magique benefits and discount to Disney's Beauty and the Beast theatrical. As Boloo might say "Man, that's really livin'."

Hurry while there is still availability. Call Disneyland Paris on **0990 03 03 09**

If you don't already have the Card, just call 0800 700 222 to apply.

Disneyland Paris Cards

# Uneasy ghosts of genocide haunt Clinton's safari

BILL CLINTON will notice that the muggy air hanging over the Rwandan capital's flowered verges has an unusually sweet flavour when he visits Kigali for a few hours on his African tour, which begins in Ghana today. Four years after the Rwandan genocide, the ghosts of a million victims, buried under only inches of soil, still seep out in the unmistakable odour of death.

During a six-nation visit to promote democracy and trade on a continent cursed with conflict, it might seem ironic that half his hosts came to power by the barrel of the gun, and only one has taken part in multiparty elections.

But by sticking to anti-corruption promises and free trade, the leaders of Ghana, Uganda and Rwanda have won the hearts and minds of many in Washington who see a rich future for American industry in the 700 million potential consumers in Africa.

**The President's Africa visit turns a blind eye to democracy, writes Sam Kiley**

which coincidentally has the world's largest unexploited mineral reserves.

Notwithstanding civil wars in Uganda and Rwanda, former Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings in Ghana, Uganda's former rebel "commander" Yoweri Museveni and Major-General Paul Kagame in Rwanda (technically the Vice-President, in truth the country's unchallenged leader) will be held up as the models of a modern African leader.

Hillary, Chelsea and Bill will undoubtedly have the

most fun during a two-day private safari in the Okavango delta of Botswana during their 12-day tour. But the most important stop for Mr Clinton will be in Kampala where, as Mr Museveni's guest, he will take part in a summit of 11 African Presidents and Prime Ministers.

The choice of Mr Museveni as host — he will be supported by Issias Alerwerki, Eritrea's President, and Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia — sends a message to older African leaders. Elderly statesmen such as Daniel arap Moi and Robert Mugabe, both in their seventies, may preside over countries which are more developed than their younger colleagues, but for the Clinton entourage they have got the wrong attitude.

Whereas the young Presidents, many of them Mr Clinton's "age mates" — an important factor in forging strong bonds between African



A poster artist in Accra puts the finishing touches to a portrait of Lieutenant Rawlings greeting Mr Clinton on the eve of the President's visit

men — are cunning countries where the economies are being liberalised and individual freedoms expanded, the old-timers in Kenya and Zimbabwe are sluggish in reform in every way. In short, Museveni & Co offer hope — and

potential profits — for America and Africa.

Mr Clinton recently said that a "dynamic new Africa" was emerging... making dramatic strides toward democracy and prosperity. Real democracy is not very impor-

tant to Washington, "good governance" — the term most often used by the British Foreign Office — is a reluctant convert to multi-party politics. General Kagame will never give the

Hutu majority a full voice, for fear they will wipe out the remaining members of his Tutsi tribe, and Mr Museveni is outright hostile to the concept and has developed, with American approval, a non-party pluralism as a model for Africa. Few of the other Washington favourites in Ethiopia and Eritrea appear to making "strides" towards democracy.

But, along with Nelson Mandela's Democratic South Africa, they are seen by Washington as vital players in the White House's new drive to "demystify" Africa.

Mr Clinton's 800-person entourage will go from Rwanda and Uganda to South Africa, Botswana and lastly Senegal, selling their plans for preferential trade with Africa recently approved by the US Congress.

Cynics, among them older African leaders and aid groups such as Oxfam, have argued that such plans amount to a licence to plunder Africa's resources — and, given that 40 per cent of Africa's trade is with Europe, a chance for America to catch up in Africa.

## White House puts premium on prize of positive images

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE prize the White House hopes to win from President Clinton's trip to Africa is a brace of images, heaped back by the world's television networks, whose emotional power could bolster his tattered image at home.

Most valuable will be a shot of Mr Clinton walking with President Mandela, on Robben Island, where the South African leader was imprisoned for two decades. In a trip portrayed by the White House as a centrepiece of its campaign to heal America's racial divides, Mr Clinton is also expected to visit Goree Island in Senegal, one of the main ports where Africans were loaded on to slave ships.

But the White House is braced for the storm of questions about sexual harassment allegations that followed his 12-day, six-country tour, the longest foreign trip of his presidency. Aides fear that the scheduled press conference, with

Mr Mandela in Cape Town, will be hijacked by questions about Mr Clinton's sex life.

President Clinton intends to give an upbeat message that the United States recognises Africa's vast improvements since Jimmy Carter visited 20 years ago, the last trip by an American President.

However, he has to counter scepticism in Africa and at home, given the US history of inconsistency towards the continent — engaging briefly, and then dropping the themes when the troubles became overwhelming.

The regional summit on human rights in Uganda will also confront Mr Clinton with diplomatic headaches. He must decide how vigorously to press leaders who have been severely criticised by the US for human rights abuses, including President Moi of Kenya and President Kabila, the rebel leader who seized power in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Our competitors claim more only tell half the story

Every day more and more new telecoms companies run ads saying they can save your business more money than BT.

But the savings are often not what they seem. Our competitors rarely take into account our discounts and will compare their best rates against BT's basic undiscounted rates.

BT offer significant discounts on all your business

calls, whenever you call (not just on certain calls with some of our competitors). And you can get savings without compromising on the world-class service you expect from BT.

To find out just how competitive BT is, call our Freefone 0800 800 800 and ask for one of our specialists, or visit [www.bt.com/business](http://www.bt.com/business)

**Get into great value home insurance**

- Your home has up to 4 bedrooms.
- With contents worth up to £35,000.
- Your home is occupied solely by you and your family.
- You've not made a home insurance claim in the last three years.

You could be in for some good news! Call Commercial Union free and see if you could make big savings on home insurance.

**COMMERCIAL UNION**  
Motor and Home Insurance

Call now for a FREE no-obligation quote  
Lines open 8am-3pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat.  
Please quote reference TR20  
Your call may be recorded for quality control purposes

**0800 38 0800**

# Blair team prepares for wind of change as Schröder era dawns

In the black days of martial-law Poland, British ministers used to talk to the regime, agree in a small way on minor matters, and then travel by Jaguar to the strikingly ugly residence of the British Ambassador to discuss serious issues with the dissident opposition freshly released from jail. Poland was a society pregnant with change, and Thatcher-era ministers, however flawed in other ways, knew how to make a point. Something similar happened in Bonn on Friday. Tony Blair trudged through the agenda with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor

## INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

— the euro, enlargement, jobs, coal subsidies — and then marched off to see the democratic opposition at the ambassador's place. Herr

Kohl is, of course, no General Jaruzelski. And Gerhard Schröder is no Lech Walesa (though, in his younger years, Herr Schröder once rattled the fence of the Chancellery, and belittled, Walesa-like, "Let me in!"). The British are good at parallel diplomacy. Mr Blair has been hedging his bets and appeared to do so in Bonn. But reading between the lines, it is pretty clear that the Government is preparing for the end of Herr Kohl, and the accession of Herr Schröder. There is a belated recognition, though, that not only Herr Kohl, but also his style of European manage-

ment, has run its course. Denis McShane MP, one of Labour's best Germany-watchers, sees a change in the wind: "We seem to be shifting from a Catholic southern Europe to a northern Protestant, free-trading, outward-looking kind of community."

The Europe of Jacques Delors, the former President of the European Commission, and Herr Kohl is, like Christian Democracy, on the retreat.

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, Herr Schröder, and for the time being at least, Mr Blair are Protestants. So, remarkably, is Jerzy

Buzek, the new Prime Minister of first-in-the-line entry candidate, Poland.

The Blair team supposed that Oskar Lafontaine would be the Social Democratic contender. There were exceptions, including Mr McShane, who could be seen during the Lower Saxony elections making a warm-up speech — in German — for Herr Schröder.

To make up for lost time, Germany has been targeted by the Blair legions. Indeed, Bonn has seen more of the Blair inner circle than northern England.

Peter Mandelson is becoming a regular fixture, and

caused a stir recently by announcing the end of representative democracy. Germans, with a fear of direct democracy, shuddered until they realised that all the Blair team wanted to do was to extend the boundaries of the political class, make it more responsive. Herr Schröder can accept that without rushing to hold referendums.

The next visitor is Douglas Henderson, the Europe minister, whose speech in Bonn this week will provide a counterpoint to the Blair-Kohl visit. Out of courtesy — some say Mr Blair is excessively respectful to the German Chancellor — the Bonn

talks skirted around disagreement. Mr Henderson, with his no-nonsense trade union negotiator approach, will make plain the terms of Britain's deeper engagement in Europe: reform of the common agriculture policy, economic and social reforms and flexible working.

There will be much more of this, and the real target will be Herr Schröder. The past week has shown that he is ruthless enough to be a Chancellor on his own terms. In a masterly backroom coup, he engineered the early retirement of Johannes Rau from the pre-

iership of North Rhine-Westphalia, and ensured his replacement by a good friend, and fellow pragmatist, Wolfgang Clement. With Herr Clement's support — the region supplies one-third of all party delegates — Herr Schröder has at last a strong party base. For months, Herr Schröder swore intimate friendship with Herr Lafontaine, thus qualifying for the Baron Munchausen Medal for services to the truth. That pretence has gone.

Herr Schröder has shown that he really does have an instinct for power. The Blairites can smell it. Together, they can do business.

# Le Pen in power bid as Right falls apart

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE leader of the extreme-right National Front, Jean-Marie Le Pen, turned up the heat on France's disintegrating mainstream conservative alliance yesterday by demanding that he be elected president of a crucial Southern regional council in exchange for his party's support in other areas.

The centre-right coalition was fighting mounting chaos at the weekend after five local conservative politicians, members of the centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF), defied their leaders and won control of regional assemblies with the National Front's help.

All five were immediately suspended by the UDF leader François Léotard who, like other conservative leaders, has refused to countenance deal-making with the xenophobic, anti-immigrant Front.

M Le Pen, proclaiming that after years as a pariah the Front had now become a "party of government", used the disarray on the Right to bolster his position.

Several regions have yet to elect council presidents, including Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, which will be decided today. After the first round of voting last Sunday, M Le Pen and M Léotard were neck-and-neck in second place with equal numbers of councillors, and the left-wing candidate narrowly ahead in the region.

M Le Pen could win with even a fraction of the mainstream Right's vote. His party issued a statement at the weekend, declaring: "The National Front, which has already used its votes to ensure the election of candidates from the Right in five regions which were earmarked for the Left, claims the presidency of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region for its candidate, Jean-Marie Le Pen." The four Southern towns already controlled by the Front lie in this region, and if M Le Pen wins the regional presidency it would mark the high point of his political career.

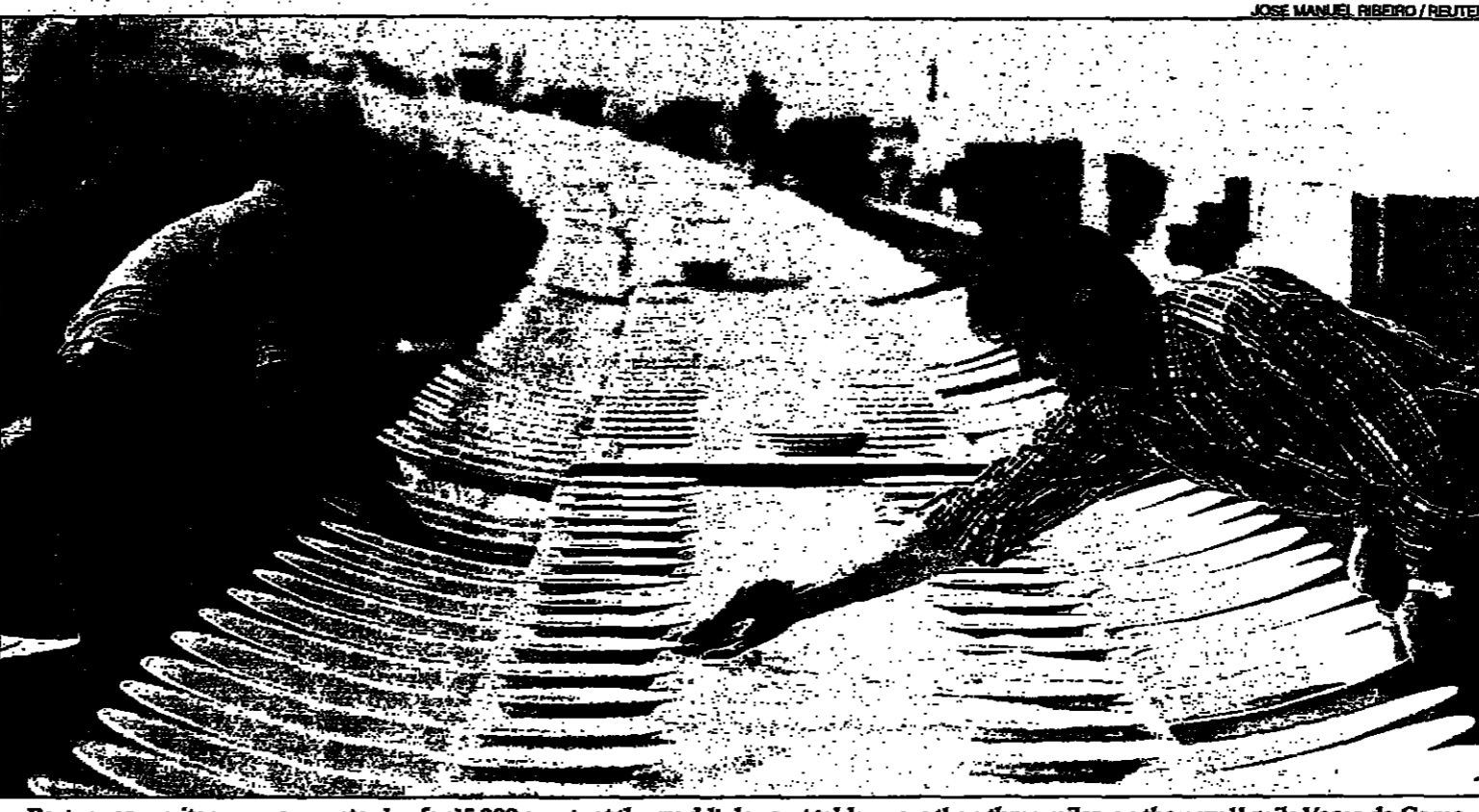
For the mainstream Centre-Right, the rebellion by local leaders could hardly be more damaging. The Front's role as kingmaker has caused outrage in the press, where comparisons were made to Nazi-era collaboration.

"These casual renegades are opening the door to the aggressive heirs of Vichy leader Philippe Pétain ... For the first time since the war, the unspoken rule preventing any pact with the successors of the collaboration has been broken," *Liberation* observed.

"The National Front has managed to break up the Right," *France-Soir* declared, as the splits within the mainstream coalition widened. No sooner had M Léotard suspended the rebels than his fellow UDF leader, Alain Madelin, congratulated them.

The Gaullist RPR party may face the same embarrassment today when four more regions could elect presidents from the party with Front support.

Leading article, page 24



Portuguese waiters prepare yesterday for 15,000 guests at the world's longest table, more than three miles, on the new 11-mile Vasco da Gama Bridge, Europe's longest, across the River Tagus north of Lisbon. Organisers hope to have the meal entered in the Guinness Book of Records

# Germany endorses Italy for the euro club

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN YORK

THREE days before the EU issues key verdicts on readiness for monetary union, Germany has signalled its acceptance of Italy in the currency club by calling for a new pact that would force Rome to stick to economic discipline once inside the euro.

Germany's acceptance of EU reality were displayed at a British-chaired session of the powerful EU finance council in York, which also highlighted the discomfort awaiting Britain as one of four states outside the single currency at its launch next January.

On Wednesday all EU states except Britain, Greece, Denmark and Sweden are due to be rated fit for monetary union by the European Commission and the European Monetary Institute (EMI), precursor to the future Euro-

pean Central Bank. The verdicts will be used as the basis for final decisions at a Brussels summit on May 3, to be chaired by Tony Blair.

However, the Frankfurt-based EMI is expected to sound misgivings over Italy's deficit-ridden public finances. Its public debt, at 123 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), is double the target set at Maastricht.

Theo Waigel, the German minister, aimed at Italy when he proposed a plan which would immediately bind all future euro members to the terms of the rigour-enforcing "stability pact" which is not due to take force until next year. The pact, which allows for huge fines against profligate states, was adopted last year under German pressure as the main lever to bind euro states to fiscal virtue.

The decision last week by Athens to join the Exchange

Rate Mechanism has hardened the EU view that membership is a compulsory condition for qualifying for the euro. Jean-Claude Trichet, chief of the Banque de France, said in York that "the legal experts tell us that it is one of the Maastricht criteria", he said. The Germans leaned harder on Britain and the other "euro-outs" when Hans Tietmeyer, chief of the

Bundesbank, the German central bank, said that countries not taking part in monetary union should not have equal access to Target, the payments system which will underpin the European single currency.

Herr Waigel pressed Bonn's demands for a cut in its contributions to the EU budget. Backed by Sweden, The Netherlands and Austria, and winning the effective backing

of France, the Germans said British-style rebates must be made to all countries which pay too much to the EU. Germany is by far the biggest net contributor, paying what it estimates to be £7 billion a year. This compares with Britain's £2.5 billion net contribution. "The British special rebate can only be kept if the rules that I have proposed apply," said Herr Waigel.

# Syria still insists on Golan pullout

BY MICHAEL BINTON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

HARD on the heels of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, the United Nations is now also exploring the chance for a long-delayed Israeli pullout from southern Lebanon.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, yesterday met President Assad of Syria to discuss the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and, like Mr Cook, was given a guarded response. Damascus is adamant that the Israelis should not be allowed to sign a separate peace with Lebanon, and have insisted that any pullout must be linked to Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr Annan said that he had "useful" talks with Mr Assad. Damascus said afterwards that these also dealt with ways of "rescuing the peace process, which stopped due to the anti-peace policies of the Israeli Government." Mr Annan was due in Israel immediately afterwards to discuss the Syrian response.

Jerusalem: Israel has rejected a key element of a new American initiative intended to break a stalemate in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. The Israeli Cabinet met yesterday and unanimously opposed a reported Washington proposal calling for an Israeli withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank. (AP)

**Get into great value home insurance**

**International risks... local solution**

0800-001234

Visit our Website at <http://www.dunandbrad.co.uk>

## Painting 'may show Roman London'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A RECENTLY discovered 1st-century fresco, initially thought to represent Rome in the time of Nero, is instead a rare bird's-eye view of Roman London, according to Italy's foremost art historian.

Professor Federico Zeri said the painting, found two weeks ago on the wall of an underground passage beneath the ruins of Nero's Golden House (*Domus Aurea*) near the Colosseum, clearly dated from the time of Claudius (AD 41-54), Nero's predecessor.

"The fortified walls in the fresco are surely the walls of London," Professor Zeri said. "This would explain the ornate towers, which as far as we know did not exist in Rome." The position of the river "strongly suggests it is not the Tiber, but the Thames. I am sure this is London."

The 12ft by 9ft fresco shows temples, palaces, a semi-circular amphitheatre, an acropolis and other more modest buildings grouped around a river crossed by a covered bridge with a colonnade.

Eugenio La Rocca, the Superintendent of Archaeology in Rome, cast doubt on the theory, saying that Roman London did not have an acropolis. Professor Michael Fulford, of Reading University, also rebutted Professor Zeri's claims. "London did not begin as a city until the end of Claudius's reign, and city walls were not built until AD 200. It is most likely that this is an allegory, or an ideal city," he said.

## Now, it's easy to fix your Millennium Bug.

Soon, things won't be so simple.

You have heard about the Millennium Bug. Your accounts system will be unusable if the Millennium Bug bites.

**YOUR SYSTEM COULD FAIL NOW**

But you may not realise - your system could fail now, whenever a date after December 1999 occurs - on an invoice due perhaps or a forecast. And the resources to solve this problem are limited - you must get help now.

**CALL SAGE TODAY**

We will send you our guide to beating the Millennium Bug, free. And we can provide a version of our world-leading accountancy software that is right for your business, and is ready for the Year 2000 and beyond. Plus with our network of experts across the country, we can ensure that you can have all the help you need to be fully Year 2000 compliant.

**A BETTER WAY TO RUN YOUR BUSINESS**

Sage Accountancy software has even more to offer. More knowledge about what really goes on in your business.

Easier to use with features like built-in help. Integration with other Windows software so you can use accounts data for charts and presentations. And reporting facilities to help manage credit, and improve cashflow.

So, if you intend taking your business into the Year 2000, call today, or return the coupon - while there is still time.

**0800 44 77 77 EXT.142**

Lines open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. Or visit Sage at [www.sage.com](http://www.sage.com)

For your FREE copy of the Sage Guide to the Year 2000, and the location of your nearest Sage dealer, call 0800 44 77 77. Or fax this coupon to 0191 255 6302 or return it to: SAGE, Sage House, Barton Park Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE7 7LZ.

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) Initial Surname

Job Title

Company Name & Address

Postcode Telephone

THE WORLD'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF PC ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE.

FREE Sage Guide to the Year 2000

# 'We're ready to give our blood'



Tom Walker hears brave talk from ethnic Albanian guerrillas during a night on manoeuvres in the Llaushe Valley, Kosovo

ETHNIC Albanians fighting for secession from Serbia are awaiting the results of Wednesday's Contact Group meeting on the Kosovo crisis before deciding whether to broaden their counter-offensive against Serb forces.

In contrast to the diplomatic picture emanating from Belgrade, the battle for control of Serbia's treasured province of Kosovo has not ground to a halt — putting the regime of President Milosevic of Yugoslavia in grave danger of further sanctions.

The clan-based Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) is engaging the Serb Army and police units in regular skirmishes. The front line is concentrated ten miles west of the town of Klinja, and Serb checkpoints along the entire Llaushe Valley linking Klinja to the Serb military headquarters at Srbica are under regular attack from Albanian sniper and machinegun fire.

A night with a UCK-linked clan in the Llaushe Valley rapidly dispelled any notions that the bloody Serb offensives of the past three weeks have subdued the Albanians. Beneath a cloudless sky, the hills and valleys reverberated to the sound of gunfire; Yugoslav air force spotter planes flew overhead and flares shot from Serb bunkers.

Devoid of life during the day, the valley's hidden tracks were alive with Albanian foot patrols in the piercing cold of darkness. Armed with just the occasional hunting rifle and Kalashnikov, they walk tens of miles to check on their women



An Albanian woman in Tushila weeps for people arrested by Serbian police hunting terrorists over the weekend

and children in safe houses. The men moved quickly and silently, flashing torches rarely. The Albanians crouched together when the shooting opened up again, then hurried on through the blackness, the glow of a cigarette butt often the only guide across the streams and rutted tracks bisecting rolling, birch-scrub terrain. Above the clan compounds were earth bunkers, camouflaged with twigs and branches against helicopter attack.

A few of the women had been brought down to cook for the men, who plotted the liberation campaign while monitoring media reports of their struggle through satellite television. We were treated to noodle soup, roast duck and chilled custard. As Muslims, the men did not touch alcohol but constantly drank tea. When village elders came in from the darkness, the whole room rose, the young fighters attending to their every word.

Home videos were shown of milestones along the UCK's road to maturity as a guerrilla organisation. In one, blue armoured personnel carriers of the Serbian police entered a village, spraying all the houses with automatic fire. Another video caught the funeral of a teacher killed in the attack, and the infamous first public appearance of hooded UCK fighters in combat uniforms.

"Soon we will have the cover of the leaves on the trees and we can be within 50 metres of the roads," said a self-appointed clan spokesman. "But we will wait for the Contact Group before we begin."

On the wall were pictures of the heroes of Albanian nationalism and resistance through the ages: Skanderbeg, their leader during the Turkish occupation; Anton Cheta, the folklorist who reconciled all of Kosovo's blood feuds in the early 1990s; and today's leader of the Kosovo Albanians, Ibrahim Rugova. In the small hours we joined the patrol of the village, watching the spotter planes criss-cross the constellations. Snow was falling lightly.

"We are prepared to give our blood, there's no way back now," said a young guard, cradling an old Yugoslav National Army Kalashnikov. Many of the men were trained in the army, and still had their former identities from the "Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo". Had Mr Milosevic not taken away that status he might have avoided this bloody fight and potential end to his reign.

In the morning we drove from the valley, through the battered Serb checkpoint above Klinja. Hundreds of spent cartridges from a heavy machinegun littered the road 50 yards short of their bunker. "I can't tell you anything," said a soldier, friendly but abrupt. "I advise you to go."

□ Pristina: Kosovo's Albanians voted defiantly for their own parliament and president yesterday in elections that the Serbs called illegal. Albanians turned out in large numbers to vote for their self-styled Republic of Kosovo.

One instance of Serbian interference was reported, when three Serb policemen closed a polling station in a village 25 miles east of Pristina. Serbia considers the elections meaningless. Mr Rugova, 54, a writer, was the only candidate in the presidential poll. (AP)

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Communists share Moldova poll lead

Moscow: Hardline Communist and nationalist candidates made a strong challenge against Moldova's centrist Government as the country went to the polls in parliamentary elections (Richard Beeston writes).

The leadership of the small, troubled former Soviet republic, which since independence has been split by a separatist war and weakened by economic problems, was fighting a rearguard action to keep control of the country out of the hands of the opposition. According to polls, the Communist Party and the nationalist Democratic Convention were jointly leading with 19 per cent each.

### Plane kills three on ground

Bacolod, Philippines: Three people on the ground were killed when a Philippine Airlines plane ploughed into squatter homes after overshooting the runway in central Philippines. The Airbus 320, with 121 passengers and six crew, hit a disco and dozens of shacks at Bacolod airport, 305 miles south of Manila. Hospital officials said that more than 100 people, including the captain and two Japanese passengers, were injured. (Reuters)

### Funeral for boy in well fall

San Nicolás, Argentina: Cristian Quiroz, five, who fell to his death down an abandoned well, has been buried, marking the sad end of a feverish, failed rescue, broadcast live. About 300 mourners marched to the cemetery, shouting "Long live Cristian" and demanding punishment for whoever left the shaft uncovered. The boy fell 60ft down the well while out for a walk. Rescuers tried for 33 hours to reach him, their efforts broadcast on television. (AP)

### Poll chance for Ranariddh

Phnom Penh: An international plan to end the internal conflict in Cambodia appears likely to go ahead after the weekend decision by King Norodom Sihanouk to pardon his son, the ousted First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, sentenced in absentia to 35 years' jail for trying to topple the Government by colluding with Khmer Rouge guerrillas (Caroline Gluck writes). The amnesty is intended to pave the way for the Prince to enter July elections.

### UN vow on Iraq inspections

Nicosia: Richard Butler, right, the United Nations chief weapons inspector, in Baghdad yesterday for talks with Iraqi officials to prepare the first inspections of President Saddam Hussein's palaces, a key test of last month's deal that averted an American-led attack on Iraq (Michael Theodouou writes). Mr Butler promised that, if Iraq co-operated fully, his men would work with "lightning speed".



### Rape victims heeded

Johannesburg: South African courts must no longer assume that a woman who says she has been raped is lying, after a landmark decision by the Appeal Court. The rape rule said women are "habitually inclined to lie about being raped". The Appeal Court judgment means that women's evidence in rape cases will be given as much weight as men's, the South African Sunday Times reported. (AFP)

## Chinese city offers loss-making state firms for sale at 8p each

Beijing: Any Chinese or foreign investor with one yuan (8p) to spare can buy a struggling state-owned firm in Shenyang city.

The official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday that the city government put 50 such firms up for sale with prices starting at one yuan for enterprises with net assets of zero.

The buyer will also enjoy preferential regulations regarding the firm purchase relating to settlements with

employees, assessments on the properties, handling of assets and debts, tax exemptions from charges and methods of payment," the report said.

Such sales are part of a package of radical reforms launched by the Communist Party last September to force the loss-making state sector into market competitiveness. More than 30 per cent of the country's state-owned enterprises had debts greater than their assets last year.

The policy calls for selling off thousands of small, inefficient operations — which account for the vast majority of the red ink — while keeping 500 relatively competitive large conglomerates.

Preferential terms offered in Shenyang give buyers a two- to four-year grace period to turn the company around before payments on bank debts begin, Xinhua reported.

But many state firms are greatly overstuffed and carry heavy pension

and welfare obligations toward retired or laid-off workers.

The report gave no details of buyer interest or sales transactions.

However, in a separate dispatch Xinhua said the provincial government of Liaoning had sold 12 of 600 enterprises that it put up for sale at the weekend at another fair in Shenyang. (AFP)

□ Taipei: Wang Bingzhang, the exiled dissident, urged Zhu Rongji, the new Chinese Prime Minister, to

**The Alliance Current Account gives you £20 for joining**

We'll probably never know exactly why anyone would choose to dress up as a giant bird and jump off a pier. People who open an Alliance Current Account are much easier to understand. For a start they get £20 when they open and fund their account. Then there are all the other benefits of a more sensible way of banking:

- Free Banking
- 24 hour telephone banking
- Low authorised overdraft rate with no monthly fees
- Generous credit interest rates

The 1.7 million people who can already use our telephone banking service know how much sense it makes. And with the chance to use over 300 Alliance & Leicester branches and nearly 20,000 post offices, no-one gives you more places to bank. So, if you're still with a bank that's driving you mad, why not fly the nest? Call us free to apply or find out more.

Sensible banking in a mad, mad world **0500 95 95 95**

QUOTING REF 8212

**ALLIANCE LEICESTER**

All applicants must be aged 18 years and over and agree to pay a minimum deposit of £100 into their account. Applications and enquiries are available on request. Credit interest is payable net of income tax. 3.9% gross p.a. paid on credit balances of £5,000 or more. Interest rates are variable. To qualify for the £20 offer, you must fund your account within 2 months of the account opening date. When in credit, all information correct as time of going to press. For security and banking purposes telephone calls may be recorded or monitored. Alliance & Leicester plc, Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ.

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE SHOPPING TALK INTERNET

**"The Internet is a way to cut through the jungle?"**

Try LineOne and the Internet

**0800 111 210**

It's what you want to know

Money TALK  
News SPORT  
Education internet  
What's New Business  
SHOPPING What's On  
Travel knowledge  
Life FUN

# Put your mortgage and savings together without having to move your current account.

## Wheat farmer, Dennis Ford switches to a mortgage with a combination of features that puts him in clover.



Dennis Ford, a farmer from Wiltshire, recently switched to a new Bank of Scotland Personal Choice Mortgage. By combining his savings with the mortgage, he's reaping a huge saving in the interest he's paying on his mortgage.

Combining your mortgage with your savings? That might sound like an unusual concept, but consider it for a moment and you'll realise what perfect sense it makes.

### Higher interest on borrowings than savings

Most of us have come to accept the fact that we pay a higher rate of interest on our borrowings than we receive for our savings.

At the moment, for example, the standard variable mortgage rate is substantially higher than what you're likely to be earning on your savings in a building society. You may then even have to pay tax on the interest on those savings.

### Save money by paying less interest

Quite simply, Personal Choice is designed to make the difference between the lending and savings rates work in your favour. It's effectively a savings account that pays the same rate of interest as your mortgage.

Working on the principle that

it is more cost effective for you to pay off debt than to save money, it follows that you will be making the most of your savings by using them to reduce the interest you pay on your mortgage.

### You don't have to move your current account

As this kind of mortgage offers

such a significant advantage, many banks that offer a similar product insist that you move your current account in along with your mortgage and savings. Not us.

At Bank of Scotland, we appreciate you may prefer to keep your current account and salary arrangements separate, and so with our Personal Choice Mortgage we help you to keep your finances simple by combining just your mortgage and savings accounts.

### Flexible mortgage

Even the prospect of combining just your savings with your mortgage might sound a touch complicated. But as long as the mortgage is flexible enough to give you access to your savings when you need them, in practice, there isn't much of a difference from the way you've always done things.

Except, of course, you'll have more money. Much more, as Dennis Ford has found to his surprise.

### Instant Access

As Dennis discovered when he had to buy new machinery quickly, the Personal Choice Mortgage gives you instant access to your savings, making it far more flexible than many traditional savings accounts.

"This mortgage is so brilliant, why did no one think of it before?" insists Dennis. "It's so unbelievably simple, and it's reassuring to know I'm making the most of my savings."

So how exactly does the Personal Choice Mortgage work? As we've explained, the basic principle is that your savings are used to reduce the interest you pay on your mortgage.

### Maximise your savings

When you pay in additional lump sum payments of £500 or more interest is recalculated on the reduced mortgage balance so you make immediate interest savings. Even with regular monthly

overpayments, the balance on which interest is calculated is reduced at the end of each month. You can then access those funds any time you like by using a cheque book which is provided.

With no notice period or interest penalties, this is just as easy as withdrawing money from your old savings account. You will have exactly the same security from your savings as you would have with them in a separate account.

### No tax on savings interest

If you don't need to withdraw the money, then it stays in the account working harder than ever. But, unlike a conventional savings account, you won't have to pay tax on the interest.

A Personal Choice Mortgage also gives you the flexibility to choose how much you pay monthly as a regular mortgage payment. You can opt to pay more each month or less when you need to:

### A mortgage with payment holidays

You can even choose to take a payment holiday of up to six months\* or, alternatively, pay over 10 months, instead of 12 each year, giving you the chance to keep a better control over your finances at difficult times of the year such as Christmas or when you splash out for your holidays.

Put all the features together, and you have a fantastic mortgage that's sure to help Dennis make hay all the year round.

TIM/23.3

- Make the very most of your savings.
- Personalised Cheque Book allowing Instant Access.
- No need to pay tax on your savings interest.
- You don't have to move your current account.
- Enjoy a more flexible mortgage with payment holidays of up to six months.
- Options to overpay and underpay\*.
- Variable rate of 8.69% (9.1% typical APR).
- Provisional approval within minutes.
- Free remortgage package\*\* to cover solicitor's and valuation fees.

The statements referred to are facilities. All lending is subject to approval by the Bank of Scotland. Full details and a written counter credit quotation are available from Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct, PO Box 12394, Edinburgh EH12 9YU. The Bank requires security over the property and home building insurance for reinstatement value. An acceptable life assurance policy is also required. No second or subsequent charges are permitted. An application for a loan or mortgage may only be made by a Representative only of STANSTED LIFE, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority for life assurance purposes and not for mortgages. Typical example: A Personal Choice £60,000 Interest Only Mortgage over 25 years on property valued at £100,000 would have an annual interest rate of 8.69% (current Mortgage Direct Personal Choice Rate (Variable)) typical APR 9.1% and 200 gross monthly payments of £454.50 (net monthly payments of £401.91). MFRAS calculated under current tax legislation and may differ, and is available on the few £10,000 of the mortgage only. At the end of 25 years £60,000 is payable. The total amount payable is £160,000 (this includes £1 for Valuation Fees and £500 Legal Fees for the taking of security). The cost of any life policies has not been included for the typical example. Rates correct as date of printing and are subject to variation. \*\*For cheque book is not available on a mortgage of £15,000 or less. \*\*Provided the Bank's Fraud Solicitor is used. Bank of Scotland, Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct and 0800 are registered trademarks of The Commercial and General Bank of Scotland. \*The option to underpay, overpay, take payment holidays, reduce equity from your property are all available within a pre-set limit. Telephone calls may be recorded for security purposes and may be monitored under the Bank's quality control procedure. Bank of Scotland subscribes to The Banking Code (1997) and adheres to The Code of Mortgage Lending Practice.

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

**BANK OF SCOTLAND  
MORTGAGES DIRECT®  
CALL FREE ON  
0800 810 810  
8am - 10pm, 7 days a week**

### Florida dusts off electric chair

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

OLD SPARKY, Florida's notoriously unpredictable electric chair, will be used again today for the first time in a year for a rash of executions that critics fear signal a decision to challenge Texas as the death penalty capital of America.

Four killers, three men and a woman, dubbed the Black Widow, all convicted of peculiarly brutal crimes, are scheduled to be strapped into the 76-year-old chair in the space of eight days after the state Senate unanimously declared the contraption Florida's only method of execution.

When it was last used last year, blue and orange flames shot from the right side of the mask covering the head of Pedro Medina, a murderer, and flickered for six to ten seconds as the death chamber filled with smoke. Experts blamed the incident on human error.

## Clinton wins praise of leading feminist

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

GLORIA STEINEM sparked a furious row among America's feminists yesterday by saying that President Clinton was not guilty of sexual harassment, even if he had fondled Kathleen Willey and Paula Jones, because he "took No for an answer".

Ms Steinem, one of the founders of American feminism, said that, even if all the sexual allegations against the President prove true, "feminists will still have been right to resist pressure to call for his resignation or impeachment" because he was vital to preserving abortion and other hard-won women's rights.

Writing in *The New York Times*, Ms Steinem said that even if the allegations by Ms Willey, a former White House aide, were true the President "is accused of having made a gross, dumb and reckless pass at a supporter during a low point in her life".

However, he is not guilty of sexual harassment towards Ms Willey because he accepted her rejection, Ms Steinem argues. In Monica Lewinsky's case, she wrote: "Whatever it was, her relationship with President Clinton has never been called unwelcome, coerced or other than something she sought."

Overall, Ms Steinem finds the President a model disciple of "the commonsense guide" to sexual behaviour: no means no, yes means yes. New opinion polls yesterday confirmed that many American women agree. According to a *Newsweek* poll, 51 per cent of women said Mr Clinton should stay in office, with or without an apology to the American people.

New questions about Ms Willey's credibility were raised yesterday by reports that she falsely claimed she was pregnant to threaten a boyfriend, a British-born football coach. According to *Time* magazine, published today, in the middle of a brief affair with Shaun Docking, 18 years her junior, in the summer of 1995, she told him that she was pregnant with his twins. The FBI was told that Ms Willey later arranged for Mr Docking to be told that she had had a miscarriage.

Ms Willey told *Newsweek* in a new interview published today, that the President appeared to have blanked out the alleged incident when he fondled her by the time she saw him a week later. When she said "I need to put what happened here behind us", the President's reaction was "zero, a blank stare".

Republicans concede that Mr Clinton is still seen as a defender of women's rights. "He answers their fears and gives them a sense of comfort," Anne Northrup, a Republican congresswoman, said.

But the women's movement yesterday was seething over Ms Steinem's remarks. Camille Paglia, the feminist writer and academic, yesterday attacked "the grotesque contortions" that women's groups have forced themselves into in order to keep supporting Mr Clinton. "If it is true that, as Kathleen Willey says, the President put the moves on her as she was asking for a job, then his behaviour was not just unethical but disgraceful," she said. Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority lobby group, said that Ms Steinem's article showed "it is time for teaching on sexual harassment".

White House laugh-in

Washington: In trading quips over the White House scandals, President Clinton gave as good as he got during an evening of banter and comic songs with the elite of Washington's press corps (Ian Brodie writes).

During one musical skit, four women dressed in schoolgirl outfits and berets were advised how not to follow Monica Lewinsky's footsteps as a White House trainee, to the tune of *People Will Say We're in Love*.

The lyrics included: "Don't whisper in his ear, don't blow a kiss at him, don't do that lovesick mope... Ken Starr is suspecting things." Mr Clinton said: "Please withhold subpoenas until all the jokes are told."



Paul Burrell with Rod Stewart and his wife Rachel Hunter at the weekend ball

### Ball raises \$2.7m for Diana fund

FROM GILES WHITFIELD IN LOS ANGELES

DIANA, Princess of Wales was remembered at an opulent ball held in her name in Beverly Hills at the weekend which raised more than \$2.7 million (£1.7 million) for her memorial fund.

Paul Burrell, the Princess's former butler, used his first major speech, on behalf of the fund to recall a poignant private moment with her in Bosnia last year. He was then left on the verge of tears when a box given to him by the Princess for his 39th birthday was bought for \$6,000 and promptly returned to him.

The enamel box, inscribed "Diana", had been donated by Mr Burrell as the first item in the ball's charity auction. Sarah Ban Breathnach, an American philanthropist and chairwoman of the Simple Abundance Charitable Fund, bought it and immediately

handed it back to him. "It's the right thing to do - it was his box," she said, adding: "I wanted to support the continuation of the Princess's charity work and I would have paid more." Mr Burrell accepted the box, saying "it means the world to me". He said Mrs Ban-Breathnach had "a very, very big heart" and in his new role as fundraising manager for the memorial fund he declared the evening a success.

Some lots did fetch eye-popping prices. The Coeur de la Mer, Asprey's signature version of a pendant chain for the blockbuster film *Titanic* went to an anonymous buyer for \$2.2 million, even though it had been valued at \$3.5 million. Asprey's gifts from the sale, which are going to the fund, are thought to be worth \$700,000.

### Guinea pigs invade park

New York Workers at Central Park have given up hope of recapturing scores of guinea pigs which were released into the open by an unidentified man at the weekend (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

They fear the creatures will make easy prey for hawks nesting in nearby skyscrapers. Only 22 out of about 80 have been found. Henry Stern, New York's Parks Commissioner, said: "It's a jungle out there for these poor little pigs. This road pigman has committed a totally thoughtless act."

# For long term mortgage VALUE make Nationwide your No.1 choice



If you're looking for a mortgage that provides excellent value both now and in the long term, your search is at an end. Quite simply, it pays to decide Nationwide. Whatever your needs, we offer a wide range of different types of mortgage - including discounts, cashbacks and fixed rates. As the World's No.1 Building Society, we are committed to remaining

customer owned. With no dividends to pay to shareholders, we're free to use more of our profits to ensure ongoing mortgage value, today and for as long as you stay with us. No wonder Nationwide mortgages continue to pick up awards for long term value from independent financial experts - including What Mortgage magazine's prestigious Best National Lender for both 1997 and 1998 and

Your Mortgage magazine's Best Overall Lender 1997/98. So make it your No.1 priority to find out more. For more information call into your local branch, find us on the Internet at [www.nationwide.co.uk](http://www.nationwide.co.uk) or for an instant quote and a decision in principle within an hour call us on 0800 30 20 10, quoting ref. TM99, (lines open 8am - 8pm Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm weekends).

It pays to decide... Nationwide The World's No.1 Building Society



Typical example assumes a standard variable rate of 8.10% throughout the term of the loan. Rate correct at time of going to press. A couple (male and female), non-smokers, aged 35 applying for a £40,000 endowment mortgage over 25 years on a purchase price of £60,000. Monthly interest payments will be £249.75 net of MARS at 10%. AER 5.52% (variable). Total Amount Payable £121,455, which includes 300 mortgage interest payments, final repayment of capital, solicitor's mortgage costs of £100 excluding VAT (and assuming the same solicitor acts for both of us), a valuation fee of £175 which is refunded upon completion and redemption fees of £40. A typical monthly endowment premium is £64 (variable) which is not included in the monthly interest payment shown. For loans exceeding 75% of the purchase price or the valuation, whichever is the lower, an additional charge will be made. We charge a 2% administration fee if you do not insure your property through Nationwide. Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide Life Limited and Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited represent only the Nationwide Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, pensions and unit trust products. Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited is also regulated by IMRO. Please note that for various legal, regulatory and customer service requirements, your call will be recorded. Mortgages are subject to status, valuation and security. Available to those aged 18 or over only. Written quotations available on request. Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, Pipen Way, Swindon SN38 1NW.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

# £10 LINE RENTAL AND FREE LOCAL OPTION FOR 3 MONTHS



- FREE Philips Digital Home Answer Phone
- FREE LOCAL OPTION
- FREE LATEST NOKIA 3110 WORTH £99
- FREE UP TO £1 WORTH OF CALLS PER MONTH
- FREE PORTABLE HATS FREE KIT WORTH £45
- FREE LEATHER CARRIAGE
- FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY PER SECOND BILLING

OPEN: Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm • Fri-Sat 9am-5pm • Sun 10am-5pm • Sun 10am-5pm  
Have your credit card ready  
0800 00 00 77 DIAL-A-PHONE

مكتبة ابن النخيل



# Are China's mummies our lost cousins?

Bodies unearthed in remotest Asia may belong to a lost European tribe. **Anjana Ahuja reports**

A frozen tear on the anguished face of a child. A young woman, possibly the child's mother, with her eyes gouged out and limbs torn off. Yet for Victor Mair, an expert in archaic languages at the University of Pennsylvania, the grotesqueness of their deaths was not the first thing he noticed about these 3000-year-old mummies, which lay among several others.

"I was rooted to the floor because these people looked as though they were asleep. Their clothing was as fresh and colourful and well-preserved as if it had been taken off a rack the previous week.

More disconcerting than that, the faces of the mummies looked just like the people of the museum of Uranchi, north of the Takla Makan desert in western China, had long noses and their hair was of their bodies were clothed in tartan wool. Even though they had been dug from the spids of a remote corner of China, they looked European. Dr Mair was so taken aback that at first he thought it must be a hoax.

The mummies, first unearthed in the late 1970s, were revealed to only a select coterie of Western experts in 1983. This unveiling, to which Dr Mair was privy, marked the beginning of an extraordinary discovery in the rafted world

of antiquities. The mummies have been filmed for the first time for a documentary to be screened tonight.

At the centre of the saga is Dr Mair, a quietly spoken Indiana Jones figure, taking through the desert, venturing into remote and inhospitable terrain and allaying Chinese fears in order to bring the mummies to the attention of the world. He has pursued them because "they have transformed our ideas of Euroasian civilisation. They have caused a revolution."

The mummies tell an epic tale of an extinct race, the Tocharians, and provide a glimpse of how they lived and died. Their discovery provides evidence of both astonishingly advanced technology, such as clothing made from finely spun wool, and primitive beliefs such as witchcraft and human sacrifice.

The Chinese had been digging up the ancient corpses since 1979 but kept them concealed from the outside world for political reasons. The indigenous people of the region want independence from Beijing — and the mummies suggest that they do, indeed, possess a different heritage. The mummies' existence also challenges the accepted idea that China's advanced civilisation developed largely in isolation.

For the uninformed, however, it is the details of the mummies, and particularly the way they died, that are most compelling.

The murdered woman and child were found thrown on top of another woman's tomb. He Debin, a Chinese archaeologist who has studied them, suggests that the embalmed woman was a high priestess, and that the murdered pair were sacrifices.

Mr He thinks that the baby, whose hair was braided, was buried head first, possibly alive. The baby's hands are clenched. The woman's arms end at the elbow and her legs are missing. No bones were found, suggesting that she may have been mutilated before being thrown into her last resting place.

Dr Charlotte Roberts, a biological anthropologist at Bradford University, has examined the bodies. She guesses that the woman was just 25 years old, but is unsure of how grisly her fate was.

"I couldn't find any cut marks on the bones, so I don't think she had her limbs chopped off," she says. "It might have been a secondary burial, which means that her remains were moved from elsewhere and the other bones



Preserved remains of a woman found in the Takla Makan desert. The mummies' Western appearance has astonished students of ancient history

got left behind." Dr Roberts found the high priestess particularly striking. "I thought she was beautiful. She looked so peaceful. Her fingernails were manicured and she had tattoos on her hands, forehead and cheeks. She must have been a special or important person."

The mummy was wearing a short-sleeved blouse, long skirt and leather boots, and was buried with a wooden plate, sea shells, a comb, a pair of animal horns and a piece of

extremely well-preserved bread. Another eerie find was a tall, mummified woman wearing a black conical hat.

"It looks exactly the kind of hat you'd find in a Halloween shop," says Dr Mair. Her curious millinery has convinced Dr Mair that she is of Iranian origin because Iran has an extensive history of magic and witchcraft.

Perhaps the discovery of these Western-looking people should not have come as such a surprise. At the turn of the

century, the same region of northwest China yielded some manuscripts penned in a hitherto unknown language called Tocharian. "These manuscripts, which dated back as far as the 6th century, were mind-boggling," says Dr Mair. The language bore some similarities to Celtic and Germanic. How could such an archaic European language have reached the Chinese border?

The answer must lie, he reasoned, with the Silk Road,

an ancient 4000-mile trade route linking China with Rome. Silk flowed to the West while wools and precious metals were delivered to China. Archaeologists know that the road was studied with small communities but it was always assumed they were Chinese. It seems that people of European descent were sprinkled among them.

Dr Mair speculates that the crucial split occurred at around 1800 BC in southeastern Europe: while the Celts

moved westward, a small band of them moved east. The Tocharians died out in about the 10th century, yet their legacy lives on. "In remote places you can still find people who look like the Tocharians," says Dr Mair. "It's quite eerie because they look like living mummies."

"On the other hand, it shows the past is still with us, and I find that strangely comforting."

● To the Ends of the Earth, Channel 4, tonight, 8pm.

# DNA may deter disease

IT HAS been found that DNA can be injected directly into the body, with profound effects.

Most people would have assumed that cyber targeting would be needed to ensure that a DNA reached the right place. But now, if you can see the naked DNA found by gold beads and blast it in the muscles from a gene gun, like peppering a plant with shot.

Now, a small army of researchers hopes to use this discovery to create new vaccines against disease. Normally, vaccine consist either of a weakened version of the pathogen responsible for the disease, proteins taken from the pathogen that alert the immune system, priming it for the real thing when the disease comes along. The DNA version consist not of

the protein, but of the gene responsible for making that protein. Once inside the patient, they start making the protein, stimulating the immune system into creating antibodies.

When the disease arrives, the antibodies are ready to fend it off.

DNA vaccines are still some way from the clinic, but trials are now under way on vaccines against flu, HIV, hepatitis B, malaria and several forms of cancer, reports *The Scientist*, an American newspaper for the biological research community. If they

work well, they will have big advantages. DNA is very stable, compared with traditional vaccines, so cold storage may not be necessary, and there is no risk of infection as with live vaccines. And in principle we ought to be able to produce a DNA cocktail containing the genes for many different proteins in a single shot conferring better protection than a single protein vaccine.

The DNA for vaccines is multiplied up by using inside small rings of DNA found in bacteria. The gene is

inserted into the plasmid, grown in a bacterial culture and harvested. Tiny amounts are needed, says Professor Stephen Johnson of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas. "We have used as little as 0.25 billions of a gram of DNA that we shot into a mouse and got a good immune response."

In one human trial designed to test the safety of a DNA vaccine to treat malignant melanoma, the San Diego company Vical reports that some volunteers have gone into remission. In trials of a preventive vaccine against a fish disease that kills salmon and trout, a DNA version reduced deaths to only 1 to 2 per cent, results from Oregon State University show. A traditional vaccine against this disease is far less effective.

**SCIENCE BRIEFING**  
Nigel Hawkes

## Memory Like A Sieve?

A WORLD-FAMOUS memory expert, who has trained industrialists, businessmen, professional managers, housewives and students to improve their memories, said:

"Many people are embarrassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating, whilst others recall that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and precisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved."

But yet, he went on to explain, he has devised a new simple technique which can improve even the poorest memory. Want more, it works like magic to give you added peace, self-confidence and greater personal effectiveness, according to this remarkable man, anyone

To acquaint all readers with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating book, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request. No obligation. Just telephone 0800 298 7070 free or fill in and return the coupon below (no stamp is needed).

**WHAT THIS FREE BOOK WILL SHOW YOU**

- How to remember names, faces, dates and figures
- How to remember a list of items
- How to learn faster
- How to concentrate and overcome distractions
- How to improve your present efficiency
- How to study without notes
- How to succeed in examinations

Post today or call 0800 298 7070 free

## Looking great, feeling lousy

BIRDS infested with parasites might be expected to look a little mangy, but a study of barn swallows near Milan has shown exactly the opposite.

The greater the infestation of young birds in the nest by loose flies, the better their feathers grow, a team from the University of Milan and the Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris report in *Oikos*, an ecology journal.

The team studied barn swallows in their nests and in some cases even added extra louse flies. They found that the nestlings grew feathers more rapidly, even though in other respects they were in poorer condition than birds without parasites. The three authors — Nicola Saino, Stefano Calza and Anders Pape Moller, have a theory to explain these findings. They suspect that parasite-ridden birds concentrate on growing feathers so that they can flee the nest as quickly as possible and so give themselves a chance of escaping the parasites.

The cost of growing extra feathers is to depress other aspects of development, such as the blood and immune system, but it is a trade-off evidently worth making.

## Salmon with a family tree

YOUNG salmon provided to fish farmers by Landcatch, one of the largest Scottish salmon breeders, now come with their own family trees. The company uses DNA fingerprinting to improve the quality of the fish it sells.

Hugh Currie, the group chief executive of Lithgow, the parent company, explains that salmon of different parentage often perform very differently. Norwegian research has shown that some salmon families are 80 per cent better at resisting disease than others. Landcatch produces 55 million young salmon a year, so DNA-fingerprinting all of them is impractical. The idea is to use "fingerprints" taken from the breeding stock to identify 200 salmon families, and then follow the performance of salmon from these families when they are sold to farmers.

"We can go back to a fish farmer six or 12 months after he has bought stock from us, see which have done best in his conditions and make sure he gets fish from the same family next time," says Mr Currie. "We believe it will increase the predictability of the business. Our customers can readily understand the concept and see huge benefits from it."

**PMT? OSTEOPOROSIS? MENOPAUSE? SERENITY FOR WOMEN**

**NATURAL PROGESTERONE CREAM**

For a free 16 page information booklet send an A5 SAE to: Dept T2, PO BOX 322, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 3TP.

Web site: <http://www.progestosterone.co.uk>

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

Could Prime Health give you better cover at less cost than your current policy?

Call 0800 77 99 55 to find out.

Prime Health Pay less for quality health insurance.

**KENYA**

7 nts SAMBURU SAFARI + 7 nts beach

Cross the Equator into the rugged Samburu Game Reserve before returning south to the Aberdares, Lake Nakusha and the world-famous Masai Mara.

07 April - 27 June 98 from £819

Can be combined with many hotels in Mombasa, Zanzibar, the Seychelles or Mauritius.

**Somak** HOLIDAYS

0181 423 3000

In association with Kenya Airways The pride of Africa

# UP TO 80% BETTER SLEEP! ON THE TEMPUR® MATTRESS

Relieves back pain and aching joints  
Reduces stress  
Can help to relieve arthritis & rheumatic conditions  
Relieves sciatic pain  
Better quality sleep  
Pressure relief  
Hypo-allergenic  
Superior comfort to springs, water or air mattresses

**15 Year Limited Guarantee**

Clinically Researched  
Clinical Research shows that you may toss and turn 30% less on the Tempur® Mattress in comparison to other mattresses. Research also shows, due to this huge reduction in movement, your quality of sleep can be dramatically improved on the Tempur® Mattress.

The Tempur® Mattress is made from a unique pressure relieving material that moulds to the exact shape of your body distributing pressure evenly, relieving back pain and aching joints.

Recommended by over 20,000 Medical Professionals  
Over 20,000 Medical Professionals worldwide recognise the benefits of the Tempur® Mattress and Neck Pillow and are recommending them to their patients suffering from sleep difficulties, back, joint or neck pain or people simply needing a better night's sleep!

Order your Tempur® Mattress on our **NO RISK trial!**

The Tempur® Mattress can be tried in your own home for 60 nights. If, after 60 nights you do not feel the benefit of the Tempur® Mattress we will refund your money in full!

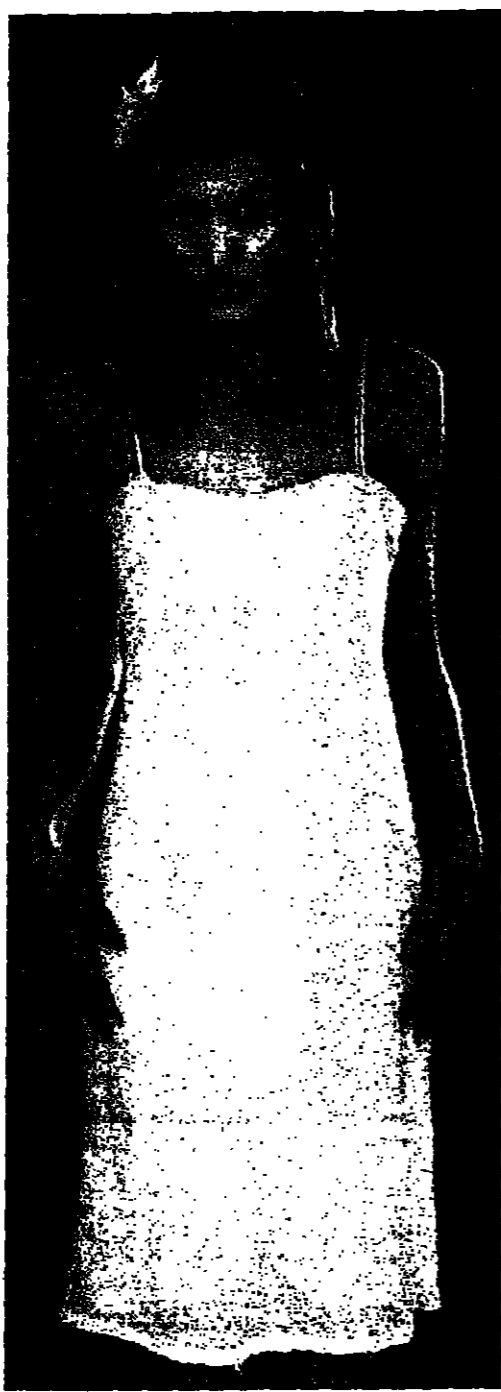
**ORDER NOW ON FREEPHONE 0800 616 135**

or to find out more return the coupon to: Tempur Pedic (UK) Ltd., FREEPOST (HA 4653) Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8BR; or Fax to: 0181 248 2360.

Please send me details on the Tempur® Mattress & Pillow

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

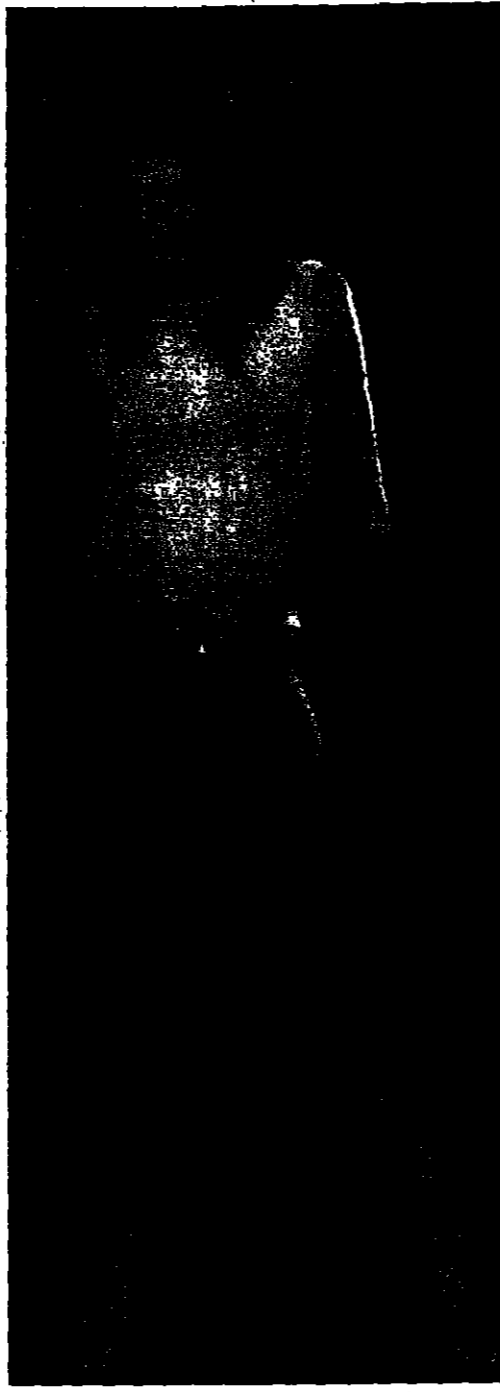
TEMPUR PRESSURE RELIEVING MATTRESS & PILLOW



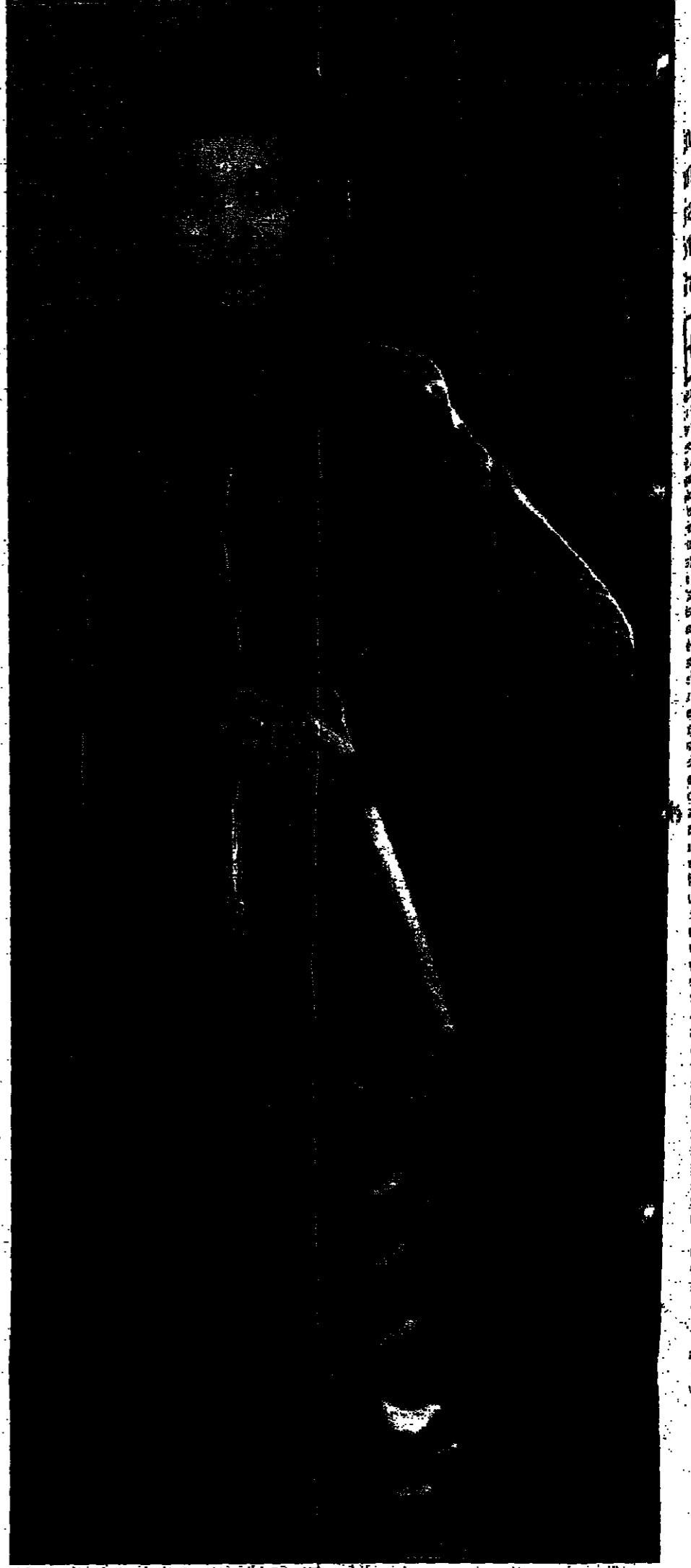
Beaded spaghetti-strap dress, £495, and silk slip dress, £95, by Elspeth Gibson from Tokyo, 309 Brompton Road, SW3 (national inquiry no: 0171-561 0773); leather flower hairclip, £72, from Erickson Beamon, 26 Elizabeth Street, SW1 (0171-259 0202)



Fuchsia crochet camisole, £49.95, by Karen Millen (01622-664 032); side-split knee skirt, £59.99, by Giant, at Selfridges and House of Fraser stores (0171-255 3007); knitted fringe scarf, £78, by John Rocha, from Liberty, Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 0123)



Ruffled skirt, £108, and tank top, £150, both by Ghost, 13-14 Hinde Street, London W1 (0181-960 3121); sequin mules, £185, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2932); silver ring with amethyst, £90, by Detail, 4a Symons Street, SW3 (0171-730 8488)



Dusty pink single-breasted jacket, £236, and matching satin striped trousers, £125, both by Joseph, 77 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-590 6200); Pale pink leather and coral necktie, £75, from Erickson Beamon, 26 Elizabeth Street, SW1 (0171-259 0202)

Photographer: SANA  
Stylist: Deborah Brit  
Hair: Flavien Abbas at Michaeljohn Management  
Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management  
Model: Gora at Seler

# Some like it pink

Ught Pink™ was the incredulous reaction of a friend upon hearing that this was to be the summer colour. In a season devoid of truly in-your-face trends, this one was trumpeted long before any of the sweet-little-nothings touched the shop rails.

There are people in the fashion world who have built it up then knocked it down before most of us have had a chance to pull a face at a fuchsia T-shirt. This page is by way of a defence of an uplifting, spirited, yet much maligned colour whose time has surely come again.

The overt femininity of the colour is what prompts so much of the adverse reaction. And it is true that some of this season's pinks are at the petal end of the spectrum. But even petal pink needn't be insipid. The emphasis on sensual fabrics and antique-inspired decorative elements such as beads and sequins gives pieces an individuality that lifts them well above the sugary.

Even if you don't want to flaunt summer's hot colour, it's important to show that you've got it, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

Camisole tops and curvaceous lines ranch up even the sweetest designs. Designers' palettes have been filled with a far greater range than petal and fuchsia, however. Dusty, tea-stained colours that look as if they've been left in a patch of sunlight for years have emerged blinking onto catwalks. Pieces of childhood bubblegum have been discovered down the back of sofas, the edge knocked off their once vibrant hue.

Star pinks were those of Narciso Rodriguez, the hot new Cerruti designer, whose own collection used stretch to make the colour womanly rather than girly. Stella McCartney at Chloé took that a step further, with little drawing tops in magenta checks,

that only just held strong across gaping cleavages. Pink has also become the colour of attitude, with vibrant reminders of the punk era. Martine Sitbon produced one of the most aggressively modern dresses — a shocking pink shift with an abstract, "modern art" devoré print. Prada also did the modern art thing, with a vibrant pink coat, featuring concentric white squares.

The punk theme was still starker at Ghost, with sharp jersey separates, ruffled to heighten the street corner feel. Tight, strong shapes, and futuristic sequining, in geometric and linear patterns, sharpen the edge.

If you're still not convinced, then you should at least consider a dash —

or even better an aggressive slash — of the colour. As several of the fashion pack have proved, just one Rebecca Moses cashmere sweater will lift a grey suit, and can be counted as that wonderful thing, an "investment" buy. John Rocha's fringed scarves kill two trends in one go and will pep up a plain evening dress or bring a hint of the night into daywear. A pair of pink mules, or strappy sling-backs, preferably dotted with glitter, will have that never-went-to-bed feel that is always worth cultivating even if you are tucked up with Hordicks by 9pm.

And finally, you can wear pink in the lining. This may sound mad, but linings are big this summer. There were flashes of it at Chloé, under grey pencil skirts, slit up the front, while another British designer, Owen Gaster, produced a wonderful grey Prince of Wales check mid with pinky red lining.

So you don't want to flaunt pink? It's still important to show you've got it.

Only the RAC gives you a £25 no call out discount

- Standard Cover membership comes with a unique £25 no call out discount when you renew your membership at the same level next year
- Membership covers you as the driver or passenger in any car 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Average call out time of just 40 minutes
- Our highly trained patrols repair 81% of breakdowns
- It's easy to join, call now & pay by credit, debit or charge card, or by Direct Debit instalments

For instant cover  
**0800 029 029**

Quoting TIM074

**RAC**  
www.rac.co.uk

Phone lines open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm. Free 24 HRS weather cover cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or not available and is only available to new Members. £25 no call out discount is only available with Standard Cover and is subject to Terms of Membership, which are available on request.

**SWIFTCALL**  
INTERNATIONAL CALLS

10% DISCOUNT

Australia	18p	N. Zealand	27p
Germany	12p	Pakistan	72p
Hong Kong	27p	S. Africa	34p
India	50p	Thailand	72p
Ireland	10p	UK	5p
Japan	20p	USA	8p

Call us today for details on the rates apply to hundreds of other destinations and how to avoid your pre-paid account

**0800 769 0033**

01 299 794 181  
1800 636 5205

**BUSINESS 0800 769 2222**

Types of post paid are available 7 days a week. All rights reserved. Service based on a minimum payment of £200. Our value is available to you today. Please contact us at 0800 769 0033

Spring is in the air. London's famous parks are blooming! Parks, bars and cafes are buzzing, with the city's monuments are coming life in the spring sun's warmth.

What better time to visit the capital? And where better to stay than a top hotel? We've something for everyone - from 5 star luxury to exceptional family value in the very heart of London's West End.

**FORTE**

Offer available between 3-19 April 1998 and 1-4 and 22-31 May 1998

Hotels are per person, per night (including accommodation, full traditional breakfast, digital decoder when available & VAT, 110% based on 2 adults sharing a double room for a minimum of 3 nights)

Single supplement charge applicable - please ask Reception agents for details

All reservations are subject to availability

Special offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion

Hotel	Location	Price from
Le Meridien Piccadilly	W. End	£192
Le Meridien Windsor	W. End	£76
Grays Inn House	W. End	£113
The Cavendish	W. End	£52
The Cumberland Hotel	W. End	£50
Strand Palace Hotel	W. End	£55
Hotel Russell	W. End	£58
Saint George's Hotel	W. End	£40
Regent Palace Hotel	W. End	£32
Posthouse Kensington	Kensington	£46
Posthouse Regent's Park	Regent's Park	£28
Posthouse Hampstead	Hampstead	£42
Posthouse Bloomsbury	Bloomsbury	£37
Posthouse Heathrow	Heathrow	£32
Forté Crest Heathrow	Heathrow	£40
The Excelbair Heathrow	Heathrow	£40
Posthouse Gatwick	Gatwick	£34
Le Meridien Gatwick	Gatwick	£64

Book before 1st April 1998. See hotel details above or call **0345 40 40 40**

Book before 1st April 1998. See hotel details above or call **0345 40 40 40**

Le MERIDIEN Posthouse LONDON SIGNATURE

# 'A Tennant family curse? Rubbish'

Emma Tennant's family has endured bizarrely mixed fortunes. Interview by Grace Bradberry

Emma Tennant's name is marked in ballpoint pen on the buzzer of her mansion in a stuccoed crescent in Notting Hill. No voice answers, but the door clicks open on a scruffy passageway. Then another door opens and there is the woman herself, formidable in grey and black, with a patterned scarf and a look in a scanner more artistic than refined — and probably intended to be so.

Tennant, 61, is an author with a vaguely feminist reputation, who published her first novel at 24, and who even before that was plugged into the literary circles. She is the daughter of the late Baron Glenconner and Elizabeth Lady Glenconner, as well as the great-granddaughter of Margot Asquith, and the younger half-sister of Colin Tennant, the present Baron Glenconner (former beau of Princess Margaret and cousin of Musyque).

We return to the sitting room. "I thought I might be photographed behind this vase of flowers," she says, before complaining that a chichi flower shop has overcharged her for a tulip. Then she repeats her photographic suggestion, and she is not entirely joking. "What with two roses as mope..."

The business with the vase is to be just the first of several injunctions and instructions it will pepper the meeting. "It could be really good if this interview had some sensuousness to it," she says at the start and continues to pass judgment throughout. Four questions so far have been very good, she says. "I won't talk about my marriages, I never have."

Exact fit Strangers, A Family Romance by Emma Tennant

MY YOUNGER brother Toby is in a process of being taught to announce a telephone call to a royal residence. Eleven years old, already in full possession of every trick of knowledge, he is in order to yield to guests — where the deer and how the snipe and woodcock, in which pool



Emma Tennant in 1942, aged four, at the family's Gothic castle with a bust of her great-grandmother, also called Emma. By that time the golden age of Glen was over

having it off in the shrubbery, I'm afraid. The book doesn't concern that. "Strangers, A Family Romance" is a "novel" based on the history of the Tennant family. The author, appears in part two, aged four and living at Glen, the family's Gothic castle in the Scottish Borders. Given that she was there for some of the events, it seems strange that it should purport to be a work of fiction.

Baron Glenconner advise his eldest son against the match? "I don't think he necessarily did," she says, as if this were a stupid question. "I can't remember whether I made that up. My father was very good at saying you don't have to do things. Practically the first thing he said to me was 'You must realise you don't have to answer a question'. If people say that to their child they're doing them a favour."

through drug use, and the death from Aids of the second son, Henry — are briefly touched on. "My father was the only one who got away," says Tennant. "He went to Dartmouth at the age of 12, and he was at Gallipoli at 15, so he had this sense of order and discipline that the others weren't ever encouraged to have. It came down in a sort of tradition through Pamela's family that children should be completely allowed to do what they wanted. People were encouraged to be themselves and were rich and vain, you know, good-looking."

Extraordinarily, Pamela Tennant, the wife of Eddy, the 1st Baron Glenconner, then pushed her second son Christopher (Emma's father) into marrying her goddaughter, also called Pamela. The marriage, which produced Colin and James Tennant, was not a happy one. Christopher Tennant then married Elizabeth

what Tennant describes as "relics" from the golden age — Stephen Tennant arrived in a hired Daimler, only to leave the next day. More disturbingly, Emma's father's first wife, Pamela, took refuge at Glen during the war. Emma's mother was in Cairo with her father, and the four-year-old child was greeted by a strange woman saying "You can call me Mummy". In the book it is chillingly told, but in person Tennant is off-hand. "No doubt when she got up there to Scotland she thought 'There's a sweet little girl' and just said it. There's nothing sinister. The fact is, it has a traumatic effect on the child."

Similarly, the novel speaks of "the decline of the family, the despair and frivolity", a history that she discovered as a young girl, delving through letters and diaries in a largely forgotten room.

So Emma Tennant grew up with a terrible sense of things going wrong? "No, I was never told anything anyway. Besides which it wasn't clear that anything had particularly gone wrong. My father was the kind of person who always said 'Anything is possible'. So you didn't feel you were part of a family where things had gone wrong. I think he was very kind to Stephen [his brother], who was mentally ill for much of his life."

Her private life appears to have been hectic. In 1963 she married Christopher Booker, then the Editor of Private Eye. Booker does not include her in his *Who's Who* entry (but then she leaves out all three of her husbands). The second marriage lasted about as long as the first and, in 1968, she married the left-wing journalist Alexander Cockburn, son of the writer Claud Cockburn. They had a daughter, Daisy, but divorced in 1973. In the same year, Tennant had her third child, Rose, by Michael Dempsey, now dead. She was nearly 40 when the relationship with Tim Owens began. "A wonderful person," she says.

Of her own generation of the family she says: "I did feel that there wasn't happiness anywhere around. But for all this, she does not believe in the curse of the Tennants: "One journalist said 'Can you tell me about the Tennant curse?' and I said 'Yes, it was invented by the *Daily Mail* 15 years ago. Lots of families have distinguished curses, but not this one. It's like the family tartan, completely fake."

## WILL THE PRINCESS MARRY COLIN?

he largest trout — he finds it hard to learn that, on being apprised by Louise (or by the hired butler from Edinburgh) that a call has come through in the basement for the Princess, he must rise to the drawing room and go in, bowing before divulging the news. "On no account say 'Your mother is on the phone'."

sweeps down the hall, pausing under the big Constable of Whitehall Stairs, lingering by the Gainsboroughs, Romneys and portraits by Joshua Reynolds which will one day be his, entitled by Eddy through my father to his eldest son. Are the pictures, Sir Charles's prized collection, good enough for the "Princis"? — this, with a sibilant emphasis on the last syllable, is how my elder half-brother pronounces the name of the one who has catapulted our family into an unwelcome blaze of publicity. Will she — and none of us dares bring up the subject, though I feel it weighs heavily on my father and mother — will Princess Margaret find my elder half-brother, after an



Memories: Emma Tennant

introduction to his family and his pictures, a suitable man to marry? The newspapers, laid out on the sideboard in the dining room by Louise, are more eager to speculate noisily than we are. *The Scottish Daily Express*, a paper given over almost entirely to snobbery and gossip, goes to town on our family: can they have a shooting photograph? Colin obliges like real gentry, we stand in butts and the back on family tartan rugs on sheep-riddled grass while a nervous young man from Peebles presses the shutter of a camera so old-fashioned in appearance that it could have been the one to record Eddy, Pamela and the "jewels" when young Colin could give an interview? Certainly. My father sits in the library, drumming his fingers on the leather top of his desk. He has no comment to make to anyone. Only later, from the heights on which it is implicitly understood he has the right to dwell, will he suddenly — and perhaps conclusively — pronounce on the subject of his son's romance.

### UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

Loan Type	Amount	Rate	Term
Personal Loan	£1,000 - £20,000	APR 14.1%	1 - 60 months
Overnight Loan	£1,000 - £20,000	APR 14.1%	1 - 30 days
Short Term Loan	£1,000 - £20,000	APR 14.1%	1 - 12 months
Medium Term Loan	£1,000 - £20,000	APR 14.1%	1 - 36 months
Long Term Loan	£1,000 - £20,000	APR 14.1%	1 - 60 months

**APR 14.1%**

**0800 121 125**

IF YOU ARE OVER 22 AND HAVE AN INCOME OF £10,000 OR MORE CALL FREE ON 0800 121 125

PLEASE QUOTE CODE DB8 WHEN CALLING

Lines open 9am-8pm weekdays, 10am-5pm sat, 10am-5pm sun

# The Time Difference

While other retailers continue to charge over £2000 for the latest technology, Time is able to cut out the middleman and offer you the latest state of the art 266MHz Pentium® II processor based system at just £999 + VAT. That's the Time Difference. For even better value go for the best buy 266M-2 or 333-2 models which offer even higher specifications including a FREE PC-TV system.

### 266-2 PowerPro PC™

- 266MHz Intel Pentium® II processor
- 64MB RAM
- 5.25" floppy disk
- 56k modem
- 4MB ATI APD2D graphics
- 3D waveable card
- 32x MAX CD-ROM
- 512K Pipeline burst cache
- 15" SVGA colour screen (15" optional)
- 2GB + VLT = £51.06 extra
- SFR25 stereo speaker system
- Over 1500 software bundle including Windows 95
- 90 minute VHS video transfer
- Max 2000 compliant
- ATX tower with all standard features
- 14 Day money back guarantee (excluding postage costs)

£999 Plus VAT

### 333-2 PowerPro PC™

- 333 MHz Intel Pentium® II processor
- 64MB hard disk
- 64MB RAM
- 15" SVGA colour screen (17" optional)
- £149 + VAT = £175.06 extra
- 2GB + VLT = £51.06 extra
- 4MB ATI APD2D 3D graphics
- 3D waveable card
- 32x MAX CD-ROM
- 4MB 60MB speech recognition
- VideoPlus remote
- FREE PC-TV system with Teletext & video capture
- Rest of specification at 266-2

£1299 Plus VAT

### 333-2 PowerPro PC™

- 333 MHz Intel Pentium® II processor
- 64MB hard disk
- 64MB RAM
- 15" SVGA colour screen (17" optional)
- £149 + VAT = £175.06 extra
- 2GB + VLT = £51.06 extra
- 4MB ATI APD2D 3D graphics
- 3D waveable card
- 32x MAX CD-ROM
- 4MB 60MB speech recognition
- VideoPlus remote
- FREE PC-TV system with Teletext & video capture
- Rest of specification at 266-2

£1526.33 Plus VAT

### 266M-2 PowerPro PC™

- 266MHz Intel Pentium® II processor
- 64MB RAM
- 5.25" floppy disk
- 56k modem
- 4MB ATI APD2D graphics
- 3D waveable card
- 32x MAX CD-ROM
- 512K Pipeline burst cache
- 15" SVGA colour screen (15" optional)
- 2GB + VLT = £51.06 extra
- SFR25 stereo speaker system
- Over 1500 software bundle including Windows 95
- 90 minute VHS video transfer
- Max 2000 compliant
- ATX tower with all standard features
- 14 Day money back guarantee (excluding postage costs)

£999 Plus VAT

### 333-2 PowerPro PC™

- 333 MHz Intel Pentium® II processor
- 64MB hard disk
- 64MB RAM
- 15" SVGA colour screen (17" optional)
- £149 + VAT = £175.06 extra
- 2GB + VLT = £51.06 extra
- 4MB ATI APD2D 3D graphics
- 3D waveable card
- 32x MAX CD-ROM
- 4MB 60MB speech recognition
- VideoPlus remote
- FREE PC-TV system with Teletext & video capture
- Rest of specification at 266-2

£1299 Plus VAT

### 333-2 PowerPro PC™

- 333 MHz Intel Pentium® II processor
- 64MB hard disk
- 64MB RAM
- 15" SVGA colour screen (17" optional)
- £149 + VAT = £175.06 extra
- 2GB + VLT = £51.06 extra
- 4MB ATI APD2D 3D graphics
- 3D waveable card
- 32x MAX CD-ROM
- 4MB 60MB speech recognition
- VideoPlus remote
- FREE PC-TV system with Teletext & video capture
- Rest of specification at 266-2

£1526.33 Plus VAT

### 42 UK Showrooms

Time Computer Systems Ltd

42 UK Showrooms

Time Computer Systems Ltd

42 UK Showrooms

### PowerPro™ S Models

These include 5 top games (ESP, F1, etc), 32Kbps, headset microphone and over 15 other titles. £299 + VAT = £358.83

£169 + VAT

£1373.58 + VAT

### PAY NOTHING UNTIL SEPT 1998

Interest Free Credit

NO Deposit

NO Payments

NO Interest

0% APR

FreePhone Time Now!

**0800 771107**

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Offers extended to 28th March

This week in THE TIMES



THEATRE

Caroline Quentin stars in The London Cuckolds at the Lyttelton



MUSIC

Italian flair: Riccardo Chailly takes charge of the LSO at the Barbican



FILM

Raspoutine redrawn: the cartoon Anastasia recalls the fate of the Romanovs

POP: Superannuated 1980s rockers Echo and the Bunnymen enjoy a return to fame

Celluloid Eros

IT IS a familiar LA milieu: AIDS and the Internet. Now there's a pair of buzzwords so in tune with the Zeitgeist that it hurts.

NEIL COOPER

Wonder woman

IT SEEMS likely that the cycle of abuse will become one of the defining stories of our time, as the struggle of the good man against adversity or the carousel of satiation and lust have been to others.

HETTIE JUDAH



Love and sex among the couch-potato classes of Dublin: Alex Johnston and Patrick Leach perform Johnston's superb Deep Space at the Bush

Dublin strikes gold again

YEATS and Lady Gregory, who liked to celebrate their theatrical successes with a sedate cup of tea at Coole, must be uncorking the ambrosia and doing some riverdancing in Heaven.

Nothing in the 1990s has excited me more than a Celtic invasion that this very month has intensified. Some say contemporary Irish drama tends to be pastoral, dreamy, obsessed with the past.

Leach's, too, a not-very-active electrician and Johnston's Keith, a postgrad on the dole. The play begins with a series of tiny, terse monologues which set up amusingly showing that for all his pretentious talk about "focusses of re-evaluating concepts of gender", his needs and greeds as a tradesman he likes but inwardly patronises.

Neeson comes up with a 24-carat Oscar

AND still they come, these Wildes, cascading like absinthe at some fin-de-siècle café. Benedict Nightingale writes. You could spend a day watching Stephen Fry on the big screen, see Michael Fitzgerald in Stoppard's Invention of Love at the National, and take in Liam Neeson in David Hare's The Judas Kiss at the Playhouse.

decisions. Both show Oscar at his most generous and Bosie at his most self-indulgent. One objection is that some conversations need trimming, being up, or both. Another is that Hare ignores Oscar's darker side while treating Bosie as a man with no light in his nature.

Meanwhile, Neeson declines into a pale, shambling giant who thinks he looks like a pederastic Anglican bishop who has been all night in a distillery. Could he display more vulnerability, more pain? Could he do more to suggest frustrated desire for the emotionally elusive Bosie? Perhaps. But that is to quarrel with the play.

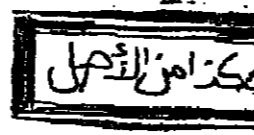
ART GALLERIES: The Air Gallery (0171 409 1516), COLISEUM (0171 552 8800), ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA, THE ROYAL OPERA, CHICAGO THE MUSICAL, RUTHIE HENSHALL, ALBERTY 389, AN IDEAL HUSBAND, AMY'S VIEW, WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

THEATRES: APOLLO 206, CRITERION 389, SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, POPOORN, APOLLO LABATTS, DOCTOR DOLITTLE, APOLLO VICTORIA, STARLIGHT EXPRESS, CAMBRIDGE 494, GREASE, COMEDY THEATRE 339, EDWARD FOX'S, CLARE HUGHES, A LETTER OF DESIGNATION, COMEDY 0171 389 1731, INSPECTOR HOUND, BLACK COMEDY

THEATRES: GARRICK 0171 494 5252/5195, LYRIC 0171 494 5544, PICCADILLY 0171 389 1734, ST MARTIN'S 0171 552 1443, AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP, THE Misanthrope, WAITING FOR GODOT, PLAYHOUSE W2, THE JUDAS KISS, PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5957, SAUCY JACK AND THE SPACE VIXENS, NEW LONDON, CATS, PALACE THEATRE 0171-634-9939, LES MISERABLES, THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, HER MAJESTY'S, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, MISS SAIGON, DUCHESSE, MISS SAIGON, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER, LYCEUM 0171 839 1838, PHOENIX 0171 389 1733, RST MUSICAL, BLOOD BROTHERS

THEATRES: ST MARTIN'S 0171 552 1443, AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP, THE Misanthrope, WAITING FOR GODOT, PLAYHOUSE W2, THE JUDAS KISS, PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5957, SAUCY JACK AND THE SPACE VIXENS, NEW LONDON, CATS, PALACE THEATRE 0171-634-9939, LES MISERABLES, THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, HER MAJESTY'S, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, MISS SAIGON, DUCHESSE, MISS SAIGON, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER, LYCEUM 0171 839 1838, PHOENIX 0171 389 1733, RST MUSICAL, BLOOD BROTHERS

YOU HAVE ONLY 20 MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE "PETER HALL'S SUPERLATIVE REVIVAL OF BECKETT'S GREAT PLAY. THIS IS A GREAT UNFORGETTABLE PRODUCTION. I cannot recommend it strongly enough" WAITING FOR GODOT "Incomparable; a rewarding experience" "THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF THEATRICAL HISTORY" "Tremendous. More laughs than your average West End comedy" "BEAUTIFUL, IMMACULATE IT REMAINS AN OVERPOWERING EVENING" "Lucid and engrossing. THIS IS FUNNIER THAN LAST YEAR" "Majestic comedy" PICCADILLY THEATRE



# Genius is genius, even dressed in a lab coat

In 1925 Aldous Huxley wrote: "If I could be born again and choose what I should be in my next existence, I should desire to be a man of science. Even if I could be Shakespeare, I think I should still choose to be Faraday."

Not such a remarkable statement from a Huxley, perhaps, but one that few if any writers today would subscribe to. The rigour of the arts is its claim to be an area of imaginative individualism, a place where a particular genius can flourish in a way not possible in the sciences. The arts, so this argument goes, are much more likely to provide the opportunity for the expression of a unique genius than the sciences. Which makes Huxley's following sentences all the more remarkable: "True, the posthumous fame of Shakespeare is greater than that of Faraday... Posthumous fame brings nobody much satisfaction this side of the grave. Artists are supposed to be in full pursuit of posterity, but Huxley truly undercuts this."

This statement gives rise to several questions. The one I want to take on here is a little to the side of the thrust of Huxley's words, but directly related to what he says. That is, the notion of genius, or rather the two notions of genius — one as claimed for the arts and the other as largely disclaimed in the sciences.

In one way this difference is not difficult to accept. Out there in the real world are laws and facts. Gravity exists, DNA exists and, given sufficient time and, of course, the invention of scientific thought in the first place, these problems will be solved. The idea of the lone genius, the Eureka notion of scientific discovery, is accepted as part of the process, but only part. Had not Archimedes cried "Eureka", then later down the line another scientist would have got there.

Science, in this model, is seen as an accretion. The positive side is that every serious scientist is making a contribution. Perhaps it would be incorrect to describe the other side as negative, but the conclusion which follows from the notion of accretion is that no individual, however commanding, can be said to have created something which otherwise would not have been created. But Shakespeare, in the general view, stands alone.

Of course he depended on his education in the Classics and on the histories he appropriated from Holinshed, and he lived in a context which allowed his particular poetic-dramatic genius to flow. But all in all we take for granted that had Shakespeare not lived, then his works would not have been arrived at by any other person. On the basis of this

## MELVYN BRAGG



argument, the works of Shakespeare, Beethoven and Leonardo are unique in a way denied the works of Archimedes, Newton and Einstein. Mozart, in this argument, created a world, while

Darwin "merely" discovered one. One consequence is that just as every research scientist has the consolation of adding a pebble to the cairn, the work of very few artists will survive in the same way. The price of unique imaginative creativity is high. Posterity scythes down art and artists with all the relish of the Grim Reaper in *The Seventh Seal*, and often what survives depends more on social, national or even institutional reasons than anything else.

It is surprising how strong people's feelings are on this subject. At a recent arts-science conference, when I suggested that there might be a distinction between Shakespeare and Newton, I was virtually howled down. The majority of the 250-strong audience was convinced that a Shakespeare would have turned up even if the Will we know had not survived

childhood. And when Lewis Wolpert recently suggested that Archimedes was so imaginative and so inventive that he could be called the First Scientist and be considered a lone genius, there was a small outcry. It seems to be the given that science proceeds by the march of an army and art does not proceed at all, but happens because of individual genius.

This description strikes me as a little too complacent for comfort. Scientists are not lacking in or in any way inferior to an artist's imaginative energy. Why, then, is the contribution of a Faraday seen as somehow reduced because he stood on the shoulders of previous scientists, compared with the contribution of a Mozart — who also surely stood on the shoulders of great composers? Moreover, is the argument that

there cannot be a sole scientific genius necessarily untrue? Of Isaac Newton, Einstein famously said: "Nature to him was an open book. He stands before us strong, certain and alone." Sir Roger Penrose, the mathematician, is prepared to use the word genius of Einstein, "particularly with regard to his discovery of general relativity. It is one of those theories which might not have been arrived at by anyone else, and an example of where a discovery was not part of the march of science."

If, then, the arts can claim to create what had not existed before, can the same not be said for science? We are still left with the apparent fact that the Laws of Motion are out there in a way in which *King Lear* is not out there. But then it seems General Relativity was not out there until Einstein imagined it. The great man/woman theory of history has long been discredited and science has been tougher than history in this respect. Perhaps, though, it is time to open up the debate once again.

# Now give us a real show

Last summer when Shola Ama was a freshly polished chart pearl — via a spectacular debut hit *Ye Might Need Somebody* — [reviewed her first big London show by remarking that the teenage discovery was at an early crossroads. Fork on way for wide acclaim and place at the top table of domestic R&B; take a blind turn and crash into the kerbside wreckage of those who also served in British soul's ongoing journey towards credibility.

No one can now doubt that, in the short term at least, Ama took the right roll. She has



Shola Ama: an absence of patter and projection put too much of a burden on inoffensive but unexceptional songs

rarely been out of the charts since. Her *Mia Love* album — a steady ser, and her trophy room already includes the Best British Female gong at last month's Brits. Such success gave us pause to consider how she has come since being dived singing (if folklore is to be believed) at Hamersmith Tube station.

Yet as the headline act on the London date of the Rhythm Nation package that has toured the UK in recent days, Ama gave the impression that she has come too far too soon. In an unwise ensemble of aces and yellow anorak that made her look like a fisherman's sunshower, she headed to *Much Love* and *All Me*, two of the album's several journeyman entries. At last some of the timeliness that Jazz Café performed last year had been banished, and the wider spaces of the Forum stage were filled by two beefy accessories engaged in what we old-timers used to call break-dancing.

Ten minutes in, Ama was already introducing her band. This was either going to be the shortest headlining show on record, or further evidence that she is still bunking off her stagecraft lessons. Any momentum was mortally wounded by a deadly lack of artistry in the audience relations department, and such an absence of patter and projection placed too much of a burden on inoffensive but unexceptional songs such as *I Love Your Ways* and *One Love*, which drifted up to the balcony with all the impact of a B-side at a soundcheck.

Returning in a far more demure trouser suit, Ama made a better fist of the ballad *Who's Loving My Baby*, although there was nothing very Queen of Soul about the tactic of chucking T-shirts into the audience like sardines to seals. A stab at Mary J. Blige's *Real Love* was followed by the more concerted *You're The One I Love* and *We Got A Vibe*, and an all-together-now encore of *You Might Need Somebody*. The job was completed, but the atmosphere was as flat as an expired alopop.

made a better fist of the ballad *Who's Loving My Baby*, although there was nothing very Queen of Soul about the tactic of chucking T-shirts into the audience like sardines to seals. A stab at Mary J. Blige's *Real Love* was followed by the more concerted *You're The One I Love* and *We Got A Vibe*, and an all-together-now encore of *You Might Need Somebody*. The job was completed, but the atmosphere was as flat as an expired alopop.

made a better fist of the ballad *Who's Loving My Baby*, although there was nothing very Queen of Soul about the tactic of chucking T-shirts into the audience like sardines to seals. A stab at Mary J. Blige's *Real Love* was followed by the more concerted *You're The One I Love* and *We Got A Vibe*, and an all-together-now encore of *You Might Need Somebody*. The job was completed, but the atmosphere was as flat as an expired alopop.

PAUL SEXTON

# Dream team approach

Felix Mendelssohn, according to his sister Fanny, was so enthralled by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* since boyhood that he "made it his own. He identified with all the characters. He recreated them." A rare opportunity to hear all Mendelssohn's brilliant incidental music, together with the performance of the one perhaps another man's dream: in celebration of his 50th birthday, Richard Hickox is presenting, with his City of London Sinfonia, three musical versions of the play.

To come, later this month, are Weber's *Oberon* and Britten's operatic setting written for the Aldeburgh Festival

## CONCERTS

in 1960. But the Mendelssohn/Shakespeare double act provided an auspicious start to the series, for there is no doubt that the performance of the one enhanced the other and vice versa.

The play was acted with great flair and much good humour by members of the Royal Shakespeare Company, as if it were an after-dinner read-through in an Edwardian drawing room (cushions and draperies courtesy of Lau-

ra Ashley). Thus the director Jonathan Best cleverly extended the idea of a play-within-a-play at the same time as creating a convincing frame for the dramatic action within the context of a concert hall.

With minimal props and no more than a large red rug to define the stage area, the actors, mostly doubling parts, relied on their voices and a judicious use of comedic gesture (the crowning glory of which was the hilarious, Marx Brothers-style version of the dance towards the end of the final act) to bring their characters to life. The cast was excellent, but it was William Houston's Snug who stole the show as the lampshade-behatted Lion in the mechanicals' play.

Brilliant orchestral playing from the CLS complemented this fine production. Much of Mendelssohn's incidental music accompanies fairy business, with the Scherzo theme taken up in following Puck's antics and the sustained chorals recurring as the magic flower potion is sprinkled in the eyes of some unwitting mortal.

On the whole, however, fantasy was missing from Hickox's account. The Scherzo needed a lighter touch, the Nocturne's tranquil opening seemed rushed and rather lumpy, and the Wedding March more of a race to the finish. Yet this could not mar what was a thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment.

GERALD LARNER TESS KNIGHTON

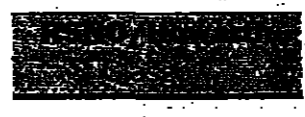
# On wings of song

HAVING largely abandoned new music at one stage, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra is getting in touch again at last. Next season it will be working extensively with two composers: Michael Torke and James MacMillan. In the meantime it has just completed a Contemporary Music Week which, though declined to a specialist audience at its rehearsal centre in the Henry Wood Hall, has at least done a thorough job of introducing Sally Beamish's Second Symphony.

Technically, it is not a difficult work: its material is simple and it even ends in C major. It was useful, however, during an evening devoted to a movement-by-movement exploration of the new score, to hear the composer talking about the thinking behind it.

The Second Symphony, she explained, arose from a Trio she wrote last year, a memorial piece meditating on a Scottish lament derived (allegedly) from the four-note call of the redshank. An inhabitant of the line between land and sea or, symbolically, between life and eternity, the redshank is certainly a picturesque image. And as the principals of the RSNCO so skilfully demonstrated, it gave rise to an attractively melodious, economically written Trio.

Reworked as the second movement of the Symphony, it is less appealing. It loses its precise emotional focus. On the other hand, as the



centre-piece of a three-movement Symphony beginning with *Earth* and ending with *Sea*, it has a new and larger function.

When Elgar Howarth conducted the whole work it proved to be an effective arrangement. Through its mediation, a turbulent first movement finds reconciliation in a last movement less direct in its symbolism but convincing in its textural depth and structural breadth.

GERALD LARNER TESS KNIGHTON

# 21st Century Box

On the eve of the Millennium, don't wake up in a cold sweat waiting for your system to fail. Invest in the best and we'll make sure you never despair about your IT equipment.

Dan Technology is consistently winning awards for product excellence. Dan Technology offers you first-class technical support. Dan Technology offers you an enviable after-sales service. In fact, you'll have the back-up of the finest Quality Assurance systems and first-class service from the moment you pick up the phone. So invest in custom built Dantum PCs with Intel Pentium® II Processors that get the job done. Call today for a full-colour information pack with technical specifications at your fingertips. And be reassured you're buying the best.

Call our sales staff on  
0181 830 1100, Fax 0181 830 1122  
AND QUOTE CODE T232

SHOWROOMS OPEN MON-FRI 9.30AM-5PM AT IRONBRIDGE CLOSE,  
GREAT CENTRAL WAY, LONDON NW10 0NW AND 10-11 FEAST FIELD  
TOWN STREET, HORSFORTH, LEEDS (TEL: 0113 258 1200)

INTERNET: [www.dan.co.uk](http://www.dan.co.uk)

## dan Technology

Thinking outside the box

**BUY NOW! PAY 1999!**

"Dan can truly be said to be the best organisation at delivering excellence in customer satisfaction" PC Magazine, Aug 1997

**Fine Early British & Victorian Paintings**

including Topographical & Colonial Paintings

16th June 1998

We are now accepting entries for this auction, which will close 1st May 1998.

For free advice and further information regarding selling your paintings, please contact Amanda Pink on (0171) 468 8201.

Benjamin West  
*Portraits of the Artists' Sons*  
sold recently for £43,700

101 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0AN  
Tel: (0171) 629 6602

## BRITAIN'S LEADING YAMAHA DEALER

**Chappell**

Trusted for generations by professional and amateur musicians alike for the finest choice of instruments and printed music, backed up by a standard of service that's legendary, that's Chappell.

It therefore comes as no surprise that Chappell stores offer the widest choice of Yamaha instruments in the UK, from the first School Recorder to a magnificent hand-crafted Grand Piano.

And if you think the best from the best must be expensive, you're probably in for a pleasant surprise. Our Price Match Promise ensures that Chappell always offers exceptional value.

Price Match details available at point of sale in personal call. Products available in stock from a home like Yamaha dealer.

**Chappell**  
of Bond Street

50 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0AH. Telephone 020 7043 876.  
Also at Milton Keynes Shopping Centre. Telephone 0520 033969.

New Production  
March 25 | 28  
April 3 | 9 at 7:00pm

English National Opera  
London Coliseum WC2

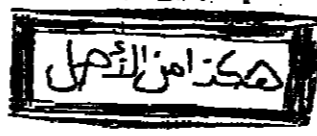
**Box Office 0171 632 8300**  
24 hours

# Hoffmann

Offenbach

"Superb performances" Independent on Sunday  
"The show has bags of old-style operatic spectacle" Sunday Times

Registered Charity No. 267110



# Mr Blair's House of Patronage

## The Tories cannot ignore Lords reform, says Andrew Tyrie

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. The House of Lords, for all its evolutionary oddities, performs the essential scrutiny and revision functions of a second chamber well.

A great deal is owed to Conservative reforms for this. It was the introduction of life peers and women by the Tories in the late Fifties which modernised the Lords enough to protect it from Labour abolitionists in the subsequent 30 years. But its days are numbered. Labour will almost certainly initiate reform this year, for reasons of blatant political opportunism — one of the few populist causes around which new and old Labour can unite is the removal of the hereditary peers.

The Tory party would not only be unwise if it failed to respond with a reform agenda of its own, it would be playing into Labour's hands. For most of the Labour Party would be happy merely to replace the independent element of the House of Lords with nominated placements of their own.

Of course, that is not the official Labour line. They have said that they will approach Lords reform in two stages, the first stage being the removal of the hereditary element and the second being a more radical reform, including the possibility of an elected chamber. But the likelihood is that the reform will never get beyond stage one. Once the hereditary peers have gone, Labour would have no interest in creating a stronger check on their Commons majority.

That is why Labour's two-stage approach is so pernicious — we could be left with a wholly nominated second chamber, in the hands of the Prime Minister or some "grantee" committee answerable to him. This would carry no more legitimacy than the existing House — indeed, it would probably have less, since as a House of Patronage it would be less independent of the Government and vulnerable to blatant packing.

Even if some ministers genuinely want "stage two" reform, the balance of Labour's interests will probably be too weak for them to carry it through. This is where the Tories could make all the difference, not by defending hereditary peers but by fighting to prevent the imposition of a Labour quango.

Tories could influence the outcome not just by threatening to reject a Labour Bill to remove the hereditary peers but — far more boldly — by proposing to use their majority in the Lords to amend the Bill so that it embodied far more radical and democratic reform. One approach would be to press for a fully elected second chamber. This would have many attractions, for the choice would be very clear between Labour quangoism and Tory democracy.

Conservatives can only gain by developing a reform plan of their own and demanding an end to Labour's artificial division between reform "stages" and "two". There should be just one Lords reform Bill and it should be drafted only

after the major parties have engaged in serious consultations about what to include — as has happened with each previous occasion that a Government has proposed comprehensive Lords reform: 1910, 1948 and 1968. Lord Irvine of Lairg's recent dismissal of the value of early consultation should be ignored. In changing Britain's unwritten constitution, every reasonable effort should be made to secure all-party co-operation.

Labour spin-doctors have been suggesting that it is the Tories who are "playing games" with the reforms and that, by hinting at co-operation over any second-stage reforms, but refusing to support the removal of hereditary peers, they are hoping to kick the whole issue into the long grass. But many Tories now realise that Labour would go ahead with the first stage in any case. The consequence would be to sideline the Conservatives and leave Labour supreme in both Houses, delivering the elective dictatorship about which Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone issued a warning 30 years ago.

The basis for inter-party discussion of the second stage of reforms exists in Viscount Cranborne's principles which, although they have been little noticed, have already been endorsed by Labour. These are that change should not increase the PM's patronage powers; that the composition of the Lords must differ from that of the Commons while the latter remains the ultimate authority in the event of conflict (after a proper delaying period); that a substantial independent element should be retained; and that the Lords should represent the whole of the UK.

Few would argue that a wholly nominated chamber is consistent with these principles. As Lords Hailsham, Carrington and Home have all recognised, probably only an elected second chamber would satisfy these principles and carry the legitimacy necessary for the Lords to perform its constitutional long-stop role.

That would still leave many difficult issues: devising the electoral system, retaining an independent element deciding on Lords' powers and the consequences for relations with the Commons. Resolving all these problems might not be easy, but it would probably be less difficult than finding an acceptable nominated alternative to Blair's quango.

In tackling these issues Tories should not lose sight of the big picture. The overriding aim now is to ensure that proper constitutional safeguards are in place to prevent the abuse of the Commons' power. Tories have done it before, most notably with their Lords reforms of the late 1950s and early 1960s. We must do it again, and soon, to curb the excesses of single-chamber government which Labour's scheme would otherwise impose on the country.

The author is Conservative MP for Chichester.

There is a case for Tories pressing for far more radical change

We may hail John Paul II as popular hero — but he can be an uncompromisingly austere moral guide

# Faith that brought down an empire

At the Yalta conference, Stalin asked: "How many divisions does the Pope have?" He would have been outraged to be told that the Soviet Union and its Marxist-Leninist form of government would disappear within 40 years of his death, and even more infuriated that the Pope at that time would have played so large a part in destroying his legacy. Pope John Paul II owed much of his own character formation to the experience of growing up in Poland under Nazi and Stalinist rule. He suffered and survived two of the most evil tyrannies of this century. If heroic character, including heroic sanctity, is the product of facing evil and defeating it, John Paul II has had to overcome greater evils than were the personal experience of any other modern Pope.

There is no doubt that he is a great Pope, a great figure of history. In the past quarter of this century, he has had more political influence than any purely political leader, broader than that of Nelson Mandela, stronger than that of President Reagan, who shared with him the liquidation of Soviet power in Russia and Eastern Europe. President Reagan spoke with the material authority of a superpower, but always as "one of them"; Pope John Paul II spoke with spiritual authority, and was heard in Eastern Europe as "one of us". He is still at his work, despite age and illness. His visit to Cuba may have opened the way to a peaceful transition after the Castro regime. Now he has gone to Nigeria, where the people suffer under a corrupt and repressive military Government.

In Nigeria, the Pope has had a double mission: he has spoken of political justice: "You are all called to muster your wisdom and expertise in the difficult and urgent task of building a society that respects all and their dignity." He said those words when standing next to General Sani Abacha, the Muslim head of the

present regime. He is pressing for the release of political prisoners. Always, he presses dictatorships on human rights, always he presses for greater political liberty. Usually he gets something of what he wants; sometimes he has got almost everything.

Yet the Pope had another purpose in going to Nigeria, one which is more remote from the concerns of the modern world. Yesterday he presided at the beatification of Brother Cyril, an Anglican, the Nigerian-born monk who died in 1964, after spending his last 14 years in the Trappist monastery of Mount St Bernard in Leicestershire. The Trappists are a silent and austere order of contemplatives. To the modern world their life of spiritual devotion may seem useless. Everyone can understand and admire Mother Teresa, caring for the dying, but Brother Cyril, mortifying himself in silence and prayer, does not have the same active appeal. Why, then, should John Paul II be going out of his way to emphasise Brother Cyril as a role model for Nigerians?

What has to be understood is that the Pope views the material world from the point of view of the spiritual, not the other way round. Trappists withdraw from the material world, even from the physical work of charity, such as education or healthcare, in order to advance towards a higher level of spiritual life. From the Pope's point of view, that is the central purpose of human life on earth. In the Gospel story of

Martha and Mary, it is Martha who does the physical housekeeping and Mary who listens to what Jesus has to say. The Gospel respects both roles, but puts Mary's higher than Martha's: so does the Pope. For him, the spiritual life is far more important than the material, though both are valid.

John Paul II's ministry has therefore been primarily a spiritual one, centred on prayer. The same has been true of the other great religious leader of this generation, the Dalai Lama. Both men have won their spiritual influence from their spiritual authority. If they had not been able to draw on the strength of prayer, neither would have been politically so influential.

It is hard in some ways for the world to come to terms with an heroic Pope. He is himself the product of his own personal history, as we all are. Some of his views reflect the particular circumstances of his life, which are different from the circumstances most of the rest of us have had. Others are the result of the extreme responsibility which rests on the papacy in every generation, a respon-

Pope John Paul II may appeal to modern people because he argues for human rights in dictatorships such as Cuba or Nigeria. He certainly does not appeal to them by his defence of moral absolutes in a relativist world. Yet his moral conservatism, preaching the absolute doctrines of conscience which his Church has always taught, seems to work better than the moral liberalism of some other church leaders, Catholic or Protestant. Sex is not the only moral issue. It is the touchstone of moral teaching in a sex-obsessed age. The Pope still preaches the absolute sexual morality of the Bible. Modern people, including many clerics, have ceased to believe that any sexual conduct between consenting adults can be called absolutely wrong. They are against non-consensual sex, though even that prohibition could be somewhat elastic; they are certainly against rape and paedophilia. The most pronounced conduct, straight or homosexual, is regarded as a legitimate lifestyle choice and it is said that slavery "can strengthen a marriage". This is not what Pope John Paul II believes, nor what he preaches. To judge by the response, the public prefers to be taught absolute moral principles, even if it does not follow them perfectly.

The Pope has also been a great reconciler. He has not completely overcome the reconciliation with the Jews with Islam, or with other Christian denominations but he has taken them further. He did not bring Soviet occupation of Poland to an end by angry rhetoric, but by building bridges of understanding. He is a conservative on the central issues of faith and morals, but he is also a Pope of compassion, for those who suffer under dictatorships, for those who suffer from religious faith, for those who are the rejects of society and for all the failings of human nature.

William Rees-Mogg

Lama. Both men have won their spiritual influence from their spiritual authority. If they had not been able to draw on the strength of prayer, neither would have been politically so influential.

# Does anybody listen to MPs?

Ministers are increasingly ignoring the Commons, says Peter Riddell

Government is becoming divorced from Parliament. It is not just that Tony Blair rarely walks through the division lobbies, nor that the Commons is often half-deserted. These are merely symptoms. More important is that in practice, as opposed to constitutional theory, a separation of powers is developing. The executive may still emerge out of the legislature, but the two are now increasingly distinct.

That is the real significance of Peter Mandelson's much-discussed remark recently that "the era of pure representative democracy is coming slowly to an end". Representative institutions are now being "complemented" by more direct forms of popular involvement, from the Internet to referenda. He was careful to say "complemented", rather than replaced. But Mr Mandelson hardly reassured MPs by his later comment that "Members of the House of Commons can sit easily on their green benches". From that, one would hardly know that he is an MP himself, nor that he sits on the green benches very often.

For Blairites, Parliament is no longer central to its reality, one means of communication. The main importance of being an MP is that it is the first rung in the ministerial ladder. The Commons remains the closed shop from which most ministers are chosen. Apart from the Lord Chancellor, the influence and ambitions of ministers in the Lords are limited. The Solicitor-General for Scotland, a member of neither House, is the exception that proves the rule.

Moreover, once in office, many ministers treat Parliament as secondary. Questions are seldom testing,



while taking a Bill through has become a formal ritual. Many ministers, particularly younger Blairites, spend little time in the House, like their leader. Mr Blair's low voting record — attending just 5 per cent of divisions — is not just because of Labour's huge majority. Of course, no one expects him to copy Stanley Baldwin, who spent hours on the front bench, in part because he was also leader of the Commons, as almost all Prime Ministers were until 1940. But even when the Tories enjoyed a big majority in the mid-1980s, Margaret Thatcher attended regularly. I looked back at the Hansards for the 1983-84 session and she voted in about a third of divisions even excluding multiple voting occasions, such as the death penalty and MPs' allowances.

Voting may be tiresome, but turn-

ing out shows solidarity with fellow MPs, a recognition that you are all members of the legislature. Mr Blair does meet MPs at Westminster on Wednesdays after Question Time and attends the parliamentary committee, but there is now a real sense of distance.

It is also revealing that when I have asked ministers which new MPs have impressed them, they are hard pressed to come up with any names apart from those previously well known, such as Patricia Hewitt and Charles Clarke. They do not spend enough time at Westminster to know many new Members. Of course, there are exceptions. Frank Dobson, whose bluntness masks his shrewdness, is careful to keep in touch with

backbenchers, as does Gordon Brown.

Much more important than Parliament for most ministers are arguments within Government and the battle to win over public opinion and the media. Ministers turn to focus groups far more often than to party whips. When Mr Brown referred to signs of a shift in opinion on monetary union, he meant the public, not MPs. The State is more of a constraint on an early decision to join than parliamentary scepticism.

Moreover, while the Commons revolt over lone-parent benefits in the late autumn gave ministers a jolt, it has not changed policy. The main emphasis has been on selling welfare reform to Labour activists and voters, as we will see again after Frank Field launches the Green Paper on Thursday. Road shows — or carefully

staged question-and-answer sessions — matter more on the Commons. Last Thursday's Budget Q and A with Mr Blair and Mr Brown attracted far more attention than the Commons' debate on the Budget, which was often ended by a dozen or fewer government backbenchers.

This amounts to a new constitutional practice, if not yet a doctrine. Parliament exists to translate an election result into a Commons majority, to support ministers and to implement its programme. But the executive then goes largely independently, consulting interest groups and the public directly through focus groups and citizen juries. On big issues, the Government seeks public approval through referendums, whose results have, practice, to be accepted by Parliament.

When I mention my theory on separation of power to an astute Labour MP, he reacts: "But what about the legislature? At present, the executive has all the advantages, commanding a majority without having to worry too much about accountability, given the strength of party ties. It helps that so many members of the legislature are keen to join ministerial ranks."

The classic example of ministerial cynicism about the Commons is the nomination of "consensus" weeks, whereby several dozen Liberal MPs are sent home most weeks to campaign and presumably enhance their, and Labour's, chances of election. This is seen as a more important use of time than anything they might do at Westminster.

It is easy to be over-romantic about Parliament and to deplore its decline of the chamber. Some of its changes outlined by Mr Mandelson, such as the increased use of referendums and direct consultation, are not inevitable and desirable. Parliament cannot any longer claim to be the sole repository of political wisdom, particularly in an era of constitutional change. But if the executive is becoming increasingly separate from the legislature, then Parliament has to reconsider its own role — to detach itself from Government and to develop a more independent voice.

# Grave tidings

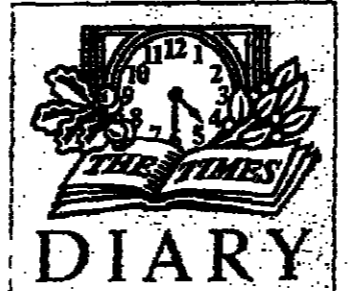
DESPITE overwhelming evidence of folly, the Turin Shroud will not be allowed to rest in peace. As the Vatican prepares to display it for the first time in 20 years, beware: authors are gathering to "prove" that it was Christ's burial cloth. The papal authorities are uneasy; this latest research dwells on the "genuine human blood, including strands of DNA", which scientists claim to have detected on the

shroud. After the cloning of Dolly the sheep, the Pope's people are understandably disturbed by the implications.

The shroud will be displayed in Turin Cathedral next month, the first in a series of showings, and, predictably, authors are jumping on the bandwagon. Ian Wilson's *The Blood and the Shroud* claims that the 1988 carbon-dating tests, which appeared to prove conclusively that it was a medieval fake, were "experimentally" flawed. He says scientists mistakenly tested "a natural microbiological coating" on the corners of the shroud, gathered a thousand years after the image was formed (from the fingers of ancient churchmen displaying it to the faithful).

Professor Robert Hodges, one of the Oxford team behind the carbon-dating tests, is dismissive. "I thought Wilson was a reasonable person. This is the sort of argument that usually comes from the wilder fringes."

The Vatican is jumping about the renewed interest. It has asked scientists to return their samples of the linen. Wilson, a former agnostic



who says he has converted to Catholicism during 25 years of research on the shroud, thinks he knows why. Apart from the scientific prospect of "cloning" Jesus, he says clerics fear that detection of paternal DNA "may also indicate the impossibility of any doctrine of Virgin Birth".

**Pinky, perky**  
AT LAST, the nation's most revered sex goddess has revealed why she is always in the pink. Dame Barbara Cartland, 96, now discloses that it stems from a visit to Tutankhamun's tomb. "I was shown around the tomb in the Twenties. I saw all this wonderful pink on the walls and the artefacts. I was so terribly impressed that I

**Novel gift**  
JOHN MAJOR is to be garlanded for a key achievement of his premiership: securing a place in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey for Anthony Trollope, his favourite author. This week, the Trollope Society's leading luminaries, including P.D. James and Lord Kingsdown, the former Governor of the Bank of England, will gather to toast the former Prime Minister. Organisers of the bash at Lincoln's Inn are hunting around for a suitable gift. My tip: a smart first edition of Trollope's *The Prime Minister*, last spotted in the archives of Princeton University.

**Just William**  
WILLIAM HAGUE, the unreformed Eurosceptic, is an honorary president of the London Europe Society, a Brussels-friendly lobbying group headed by that old mule-muncher Lord Cockfield. The Tory leader will not find many bedfellows; the group is a favoured lunch-cum-sit for Sir Edward Heath.

# Fighting talk

THE great obsession continues. He may have been on the wrong side of a record £1.5 million libel verdict, but Count Nikolai Tolstoy has decided to have another pop at Lord Aldington. Tolstoy, a descendant of the War and Peace author, was hit by the damages in 1989, after accusing Aldington of having "the blood

# Silly mayors

THE tummy-fizzing prospect of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and Ken Livingstone launching a joint campaign for the mayor of London moves a step closer this week. I gather that the Government will propose a post of deputy mayor this week. "We could end up with Steven Norris and Jeffrey on the same ticket," said a worried-



**YOUNGSTERS** today know how to enjoy themselves. Sir George Martin's daughter Lucy has escaped the shadow of her Beatles-producing father — by working for a biscuit company. "I have never been musical," she says happily. "In fact, I'm completely tone deaf."

sounding Richard Ottaway, normally the Conservative's London spokesman. But what about an Archer-Livingstone pairing? "Ken would make a great deputy," says Archer. "It would be my worst nightmare." replied Ken.

JASPER GERARD





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 21: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Staffordshire Regiment...

with the Insignia of a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order
The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees...

Royal engagements
The Princess Royal, as Patron, the Butler Trust, will attend the annual Prison Service Awards ceremony...

Tudor Hall School
The following academic scholarships have been awarded:
12: Katharine Geddes, Hatherop Court...

Mr John Wells
A memorial service for Mr John Wells will be held at St Paul's, Covent Garden on Thursday, April 30, at noon...

Birthdays today
Princess Eugenie of York is eight today.
Professor H.C. Miles, American historian, 81; Mr Michael Atherton, cricketer, 30; Mr Norman Bailey, baritone, 65; Sir Roger Bannister, former Master, Pembroke College, Oxford, and first man to run sub-four-minute mile, 69; Mr Bryan Bass, Headmaster, City of London School, 64; Professor J.K. Bennett, FBA, geographer, 50; Professor Francis Berry, poet and Shakespearean scholar, 83; Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP, 45; Mr Barry Cryer, comedian and writer, 63; Professor Michael Gleeson, ophthalmologist, 50; Mr Peter Godfrey, retired accountant, 74; the Rev Dr Peter Graves, 87; Sir Denis Wright, diplomat, 87.



Mrs Leathart and her Children was commissioned by her husband from the artist Arthur Hughes, who painted in the Pre-Raphaelite style

Victorian portrait saved for nation in tax deal

By JOHN SHAW
A MAJOR portrait by Arthur Hughes, an artist closely associated with the Pre-Raphaelite movement, has been acquired for the nation in a private treaty deal negotiated by Christie's...

Nature notes
JACKDAW couples are sitting close to each other in the tree-tops, fanning and quivering their tails excitedly before mating...

Anniversaries
Wirsitz, Germany, 1912: Jimmy Edwards, comedy actor, Barnes, 1920; Donald Campbell, holder of land and water speed records, Horley, Surrey, 1921...

LEGAL NOTES
SUBJECT TO SECTION 46 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986...

Public Notice
Public Notice in Italy gives that pursuant to regulation 6(4) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 1994...

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS
CULHAM - On March 20th, 1992, aged 89, Eric Cole died peacefully at Wycombe Hospital on March 20th 1992...

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WORLDWIDE any family or domestic business of William Murray, written, please contact Rev. 0171 222 2222.

WANTED
BEST PRICES paid for all Motorcycles, Scooters, mopeds, 1970-1992...

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 carport, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft, 100 sq ft...

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES
AUCTION
SUNDAY
MARCH 29TH
10.30 A.M.
OVER 600 LOTS

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CITYCOURTIER on flights & hotels to Europe, USA & most destinations...

FLATSHARE
FLATSHARE
FLATSHARE
FLATSHARE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
100%
100%
100%

RESTAURANTS
EAT OUT FOR £12.50!
See Menu's of Chiltons Office a special 3 course lunch 7 days a week...

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
All European & Worldwide flights available

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
All European & Worldwide flights available

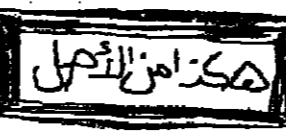
FLIGHTSEATS
All European & Worldwide flights available

PRINCESS DIANA
hand written letters and signed photographs wanted

THE TIMES
SELLING YOUR BMW PRIVATELY
You can advertise for just £45 per VAT

PRINCESS DIANA
hand written letters and signed photographs wanted

PRINCESS DIANA
hand written letters and signed photographs wanted





OBITUARIES

WING COMMANDER 'LADDIE' LUCAS

P. E. ('Laddie') Lucas (DBE, DSO and Bar, DFC, fighter pilot, amateur golfer and former Conservative MP died on March 20 aged 82. He was born on September 2, 1915.

Although his abundant energies and talents found expression in many spheres, 'Laddie' Lucas will be remembered principally for his legendary exploits during the valiant air defence of Malta in the crucial summer of 1942.



Victory in the Western Desert, he returned to England to command 616 Squadron, and then took over the Wing at Coltishall, formerly the headquarters of Douglas Bader, whose sister-in-law he was to marry in 1946. Here again his leadership and his ability to mix

fighter-bombers in support of the Allied advance into Germany. From this came a Bar to his DSO. His first sortie into politics, in 1945, met with an understandable rebuff at West Fulham, where his opponent was the formidable Dr Edith Summerskill.

He retained a lively interest in sport, serving on numerous committees, including the Golf Foundation, of which he became president. He was also a member of the Sports Council and the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

GALINA ULANOVA

Galina Ulanova, ballerina, died on March 22 aged 88. She was born on January 8, 1910.

DESPITE tremendous gifts of her contemporaries and successors among Soviet ballerinas, Galina Ulanova's place was unique and her art was uniquely revered. In her every performance she was a creature of selfless dedication.



longed consideration, testifies to the dedication and integrity behind Ulanova's calm and even vulnerable exterior. Of the new ballets of her time, she found exceptional sympathy with such roles as Maria in Fountains of Bakhchisaray.

nobling in each character, in each performance, that would touch the hearts and minds of the audience. That she did so was not, however, simply the zany talent of a great dancer.

PROFESSOR CARLO DIONISOTTI

Professor Carlo Dionisotti, FBA, Italianist, died on February 22 aged 89. He was born in Turin on June 9, 1908.



WIDELY considered to be the greatest Italianist of the second half of this century, Carlo Dionisotti was especially passionate about the troubled period of Italian history and literature that spans the 15th and 16th centuries.

development without ever losing sight of a national outlook. The essay, rather than the full-length book, was Dionisotti's favourite form of writing. Many of his essays had unassuming titles beginning "Notes on..." but they developed into highly original, penetrating and rigorous discussions.

George Barr, retired personnel executive of Oaker, Codsall, Wolverhampton, left estate valued at £1,020,865 net.

Latest wills

Aldricham, Cheshire, left estate valued at £591,021 net. Margaret Ann Martin, of Mid Moorhouse, Matten, Northumberland, left estate valued at £450,613 net.

MR. PROFUMO MAKES PERSONAL STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE "I LAST SAW MISS KEELER IN 1961". WARNING OF LABEL ACTION

ON THIS DAY March 23, 1963 On June 5, 1963, John Profumo resigned his seat after confessing that he had lied to the House of Commons about his association with Christine Keeler.



هكمن النزل

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

ATHERTON'S ANGUISH

England head for defeat in Antigua PAGE 29



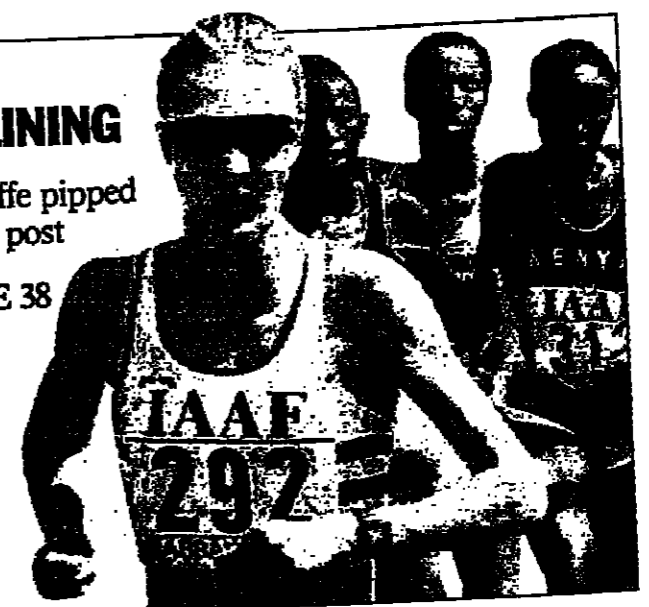
NET LOSSES

Has Henman hit the ceiling? PAGE 37



SILVER LINING

Radcliffe pipped at the post PAGE 38



PLUS Win a VIP box for England v Ireland at Twickenham PAGE 30

TIMES SPORT 16 PAGES

MONDAY MARCH 23 1998

DAWSON AND GRAYSON EMBRACE MURRAYFIELD OPPORTUNITIES

England's might threatens tradition

By ROB HUGHES

BEWARE the pace of change in modern society, beware the impulse in sport to hasten the end of old contests. Yesterday, under a grim and grey Edinburgh sky, England beat Scotland 34-20, the most comprehensive victory by the Sassenachs in the oldest international rugby union fixture of them all, lasting since 1871, and the first to be played on the sabbath.

Make no mistake, the margin of victory did not flatter England. Indeed, by absorbing Scotland's fire in the first half, by flattening them through forward power and then cutting them to ribbons through the pulsating runs of Matt Dawson, Paul Grayson and, inevitably, Jeremy Goscutt, England should have won even more emphatically.

But wait, who is calling this morning for the abandonment of England cricket tours to the Caribbean to spare the nation's humiliation? In sport, we must cling to meaningful rituals, to traditions, even when the cycles of disparity run as deep as they do in rugby now.

Yesterday, Murrayfield was full, one market-force reason to hold on to the fixture, for, if Scotland were induced to throw in the towel, the Five Nations Championship would itself be brought down. And then what? John Hart, the coach of the All Blacks, made it clear last summer that he is not in favour of annual treks across the oceans between northern and southern hemispheres. He gave warning of too narrow a sport, contracting madly until it lost its variety and its periods of longing between engagements.

The answer, as Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, said, is for the home nations to raise their game. This Scotland did in the final minutes yesterday, when Tony Stanger and then Shaun Longstaff ran in consolation tries, final flings for the spirit that would not die. True, by then, England had relaxed, considering their four tries, including a penalty try, to be sufficient. Yet, in the first half, only one team had endeavoured to hurry the ball around, to progress in the attacking game — and they wore the dark blue of Scotland. They had no explosive finish, which is ironic since Stanger,

ultimately scoring his 24th try for Scotland, equalled the all-time record of tries for his country, established by Ian Smith in 1933. In that, there is hope; Telfer is coaching towards the future, demonstrating that history, no matter how sepia-toned, is there to be repeated and enhanced.

However, the stadium was crowded yesterday, overwhelmingly, it seemed, by middle-aged people who remember bygone intensities, even if there was not sufficient cause to recreate them. Even when the visitors had to defend their line before half-time, there was never a real foreboding. But England, with far greater resources than the other home nations, might simply be ahead because, if Fran Cotton is doing anything right, it is in organising the players, pulling them up by their bootstraps towards the standards of the southern hemisphere. So, if the battle hymns yesterday were muted, that must not yet be reason to argue that the fixture is an anachronism.

In Scotland itself, the domination in football by Rangers that has lasted nine years could be ended by Celtic or Heart of Midlothian. And in a game such as rugby, sometimes perceived to be run by and for old fogies, we had better be sure that if old values are thrown overboard, there is something commensurate or better to offer youth. David Sole, the last man to lead Scotland to a grand slam, refused to attend yesterday, declining to squirm either at defeat or at the manner of it. That is his right, but rugby has embarked, in England more than Scotland, on make-or-break professionalism. No one has yet answered why, if the comradeship and the social attributes of rugby give way to money, a boy of 14 would consider, say, £50,000 per annum to play with the oval ball when he might pursue £50,000 per week playing soccer. There, and not in the hollowiness of the mismatch yesterday, lies the crux of the rugby revolution. Beware ending 127 years of history because the aura has temporarily fallen flat.

England rampant, page 31  
John Hopkins, page 31  
TV action replay, page 37



Dawson, left, congratulates Grayson after he had scored the last of England's four tries in the rout of Scotland at Murrayfield yesterday. Photograph: Ian Waldie

Advertisement for Centrum vitamins. Large text reads: 'THEY'RE 100% ARE YOU?'. Below it, a box of Centrum vitamins is shown. Text at the bottom: 'Centrum contains 21 vitamins, minerals and other micro-nutrients, with more essential vitamins and minerals of 100% RDA. When a balanced diet isn't possible, there's no more complete multivitamin multimineral. UNIVERHILL'

Small text at the bottom of the page: 'Centrum contains 21 vitamins, minerals and other micro-nutrients, with more essential vitamins and minerals of 100% RDA. When a balanced diet isn't possible, there's no more complete multivitamin multimineral. UNIVERHILL' and contact information for various regions.







Five Nations Championship: England enjoy record-breaking day but fail to impress

Grayson shines to leave Scotland in gloom

Forwards transformed by half-time team talk

Scotland ..... 20  
England ..... 34

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND completed a miserable international season for Scotland yesterday. The Calcutta Cup has not slipped from England's grasp for eight years now and yesterday, at a muted Murrayfield, they scored more points than they have done in 127 years of visiting Scotland. It will do nothing for Scottish hopes of climbing the world rankings that their visitors flew home intensely dissatisfied with the quality of their display.

A first half in which they consistently declined to put in place the building blocks that any performance of substance requires was followed by a heavyweight exertion of their forward power. Inevitably, it won them the game, but more gloss was removed when Scotland ran in two tries deep into injury time, putting to shame a defence that had hitherto been all-embracing.

At least England had the decency to leave Scotland one record, the first of those tries allowing Tony Stanger to equal the longstanding Scotland mark of 24 international tries, established by the "Flying Scot", Ian Smith, in 1933. It would take an unusually optimistic supporter, however, to regard this as consolation; the game was irretrievable, thanks to a 28-minute period when England's points kept pace with the clock and left them with the probability of the triple crown, should they beat Ireland at Twickenham on April 4.

At least victory saved England's global ambitions forward insofar as success builds confidence — at least



Dallaglio, the England captain, left, rises to the challenge of Shaun Longstaff, the Scotland wing, as Neil Back and Will Greenwood exert added pressure yesterday

Derrick Lee came forward from full back for Scotland.

Instead, they fell between two stools and compounded their sins by conceding unnecessary penalties, from which Craig Chalmers — whose match ended prematurely with a calf strain — kicked two first-half goals and ballooned a third wide.

That England should have had only Grayson's penalty goal as a reward for so much territorial advantage was a commentary on their tactical approach, if not their application. That they should have

taken a distinctly old-fashioned approach in the third quarter was a comfort, because even the modern, all-singing, all-dancing game has scope for it.

Southern-hemisphere observers might have concluded that England were merely reverting to type, but they squeezed the life from their opponents and the Scots could only lament their own loss of composure. Scrum followed scrum as England camped on the tryline and the penalty try that Clayton Thomas, the referee, awarded — the second in successive Calcutta Cup

matches — came almost as a relief — though not to Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, who believed that his front row was not at fault when Thomas decided they had collapsed under pressure.

Yet unlike a year ago, it seemed thoroughly deserved and England hammered home the advantage. Grayson turned the territorial screw and Dawson, his club colleague, romped over the posts for the second try from Greenwood's inside pass.

Within five minutes, England scored a curiously slow-motion try: anxious Scotland

fingers let slip the ball, Guscott kicked it through and Healey dribbled it forward before collecting it on the bounce. Ryan, whose case to play No 8 was not proved as solidly as he might have wished, was replaced by Diprose before Grayson's piece de resistance carried England past 30 points and their aggregate in three championship matches to 111 — 30 short of their record tally last season.

Yet few would deny Adam Roxburgh his late moment of glory. The red-haired Kelson flanker read the game well

throughout and, when England's passing grew sloppy, he was there to take advantage: his was the decisive run from a tapped penalty that eluded De Glanville and allowed Stanger to cross; his was the good pick-up and surge into overdrive before Longstaff gave the rapidly-departing Murrayfield crowd something to enjoy during the post-mortem in the evening.

SCORERS: Scotland: Tries: Stanger (20m), Longstaff (25); Conversion: Lee 2; Penalty goals: Chalmers 2 (15, 36) England: Tries: Penalty try (49), Dawson (35), Healey (68), Grayson (77); Conversion: Grayson 4; Penalty goal: Grayson (10); Dropped goal: Dawson (56)

SCORING SEQUENCE: Scotland first 0-3, 3-3, 3-6, 6-6 (half-time), 6-13, 6-20, 6-27, 6-34, 13-34, 20-34. SCOTLAND: D J Lee (London Scottish), A G Stanger (Paisley), A V Tall (Newcastle), G P J Townsend (Northampton), S L Lonsdale (Dundee HSFP), C M Chalmers (Murrayfield), C A Murray, Hamick (25m), G Armstrong (Newcastle), captain, D W Hutton (Edinburgh), G C Bullock (West of Scotland), A P Burnell (London Scottish), D F Connolly (Edinburgh), S B Gilman, Westwood, 53, G W Wier (Newcastle), R I Wainwright (Dunfermline HSFP), A J Roxburgh (Kelso), E W Peters (Edinburgh). ENGLAND: M B Perry (Edinburgh), A S Healey (Leicester), rep, P R de Glanville, Bath, 72, J G Guscott (Bath), W J H Greenwood (Leicester), A A Adebayo (Bath), P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton), J Lomax (Bath), R Cookson (Leicester), rep, D E Wood, Leicester, 54, D J Garforth (Leicester), M O Jephson (Leicester), rep, D J Greenwood, Saracens, 75, G S Archer (Newcastle), L B N Dallaglio (Worcester), captain, N A Back (Leicester), D Ryan (Newcastle), rep, A J Diprose, Saracens, 69. Release: C Thomas (Wales)

TV Action replay ..... 37  
Results and tables ..... 39

for Paul Grayson, who is establishing a reputation as a modern hammer of the Scots. Two years ago, he scored all 10 points as England denied Scottish grand-slam aspirations; here, he exceeded that figure by one, running through the card with a try, dropped goal, four conversions and a penalty goal.

It was a try, too, that he will enjoy describing to his descendants. The Northampton fly half deceived two defenders with an outside break, veered inward past two more and fended off a fifth on his 25-metre dart to the line.

It would have been expecting far too much for England to strike immediately the try-scoring streak that they hit a month ago against Wales, not against a Scotland team that kept them on the alert throughout the first half with smartly-taken tapped penalties, moving the ball to the open spaces at the slightest opportunity. But the tale of lost Scotland opportunities is told by the statistics for the scrums — twice as many to England, from knock-ons and ball turned over by a stalwart defence.

England seemed to believe that mere movement of the ball would bear a well-organised Scotland cover. They chose not to drive into the heart of the Scotland forwards, but nor did they introduce Perry into the attack in the way that, for instance,



Ryan, the England No 8, goes over the top to keep Scotland at bay at Murrayfield

Nine minutes that won a war

Wars are not always won by periods of amrition, when men die in their hundreds, the bombardment is deafening and the onslaught seems unceasing. Sometimes, intense bursts of combat can completely turn the tide so that, when the smoke clears, it is plain that the landscape has changed dramatically.

So it was with the Calcutta Cup. What with injuries and one thing and another, the war lasted for 84 minutes, but the pivotal battle took place during nine minutes after the start of the second half. Up to then, the two teams had pushed and slapped and roared and spored at one another. The game looked to be typical of games in the Five Nations Championship — passionate, strewn with errors, thrilling and meaningless in the grand scheme of things.

The England coaches, said to their men in the changing room, but England, having finished a first half as sinners, started the second half as saints.

The digital clocks at the north and south ends of the ground showed the time was 15.32 when Grayson kicked off. The score was 6-6. England attacked to the left, a rippling movement involving Will Greenwood, Jeremy Guscott and Neil Back. Two scrums followed, both on the Scotland line; both times England had the put in and went for a pushover, only to find Scotland would not yield.

England, though, would not stop. The pressure was relentless. Those who believe the modern game to be 15-a-side basketball must have been fascinated at what was unfolding on this patch of Scottish turf. Scotland won a scrum only for England to capture a lineout and then be awarded a penalty, from which Grayson increased the pressure even more with a kick to the corner. From that lineout, England drove and churned and thought they had got back over the line.

It was close, but it was not the whole story. Another England scrum and even those of

JOHN HOPKINS



At Murrayfield

us who were a hundred yards away could feel the power that the England pack, half a stone a man heavier, were exerting. Another scrum, another drive and the scrum turned through 45 degrees and had to be reformed. This time it collapsed and Clayton Thomas, the referee, had seen enough. He ran to the goalposts to indicate a penalty try. Scotland were broken. Their heads went down and their knees buckled.

It took 14 more minutes before the Scots gave way again, but that they did so was

because of the accumulated effect of their defence minutes earlier.

In short, they were whacked. England drove for the line and again it looked as though they had hauled back over for a try. A scrum followed, as did another drive. The pattern was entirely predictable. Soften them up, sap their energy, launch another attack. One more scrum, one more break and Matt Dawson was over.

What happened after this did not matter. England had secured the game with an awesome display of power. This was a passage of play that would have delighted props the world over, men used to getting their heads down and doing their work in the dirty spaces of the coal face of the game, unheralded and often unnoticed.

There may well have been four more tries — two by England that came as a result of this pressure, two by Scotland — by which time the game had turned into basketball anyway.

But by then the message had got through: scrummaging does pay, forward pressure when exerted unrelentingly can win matches. It did this one.

We've got 50 pairs of tickets to the World Cup Final up for grabs.



Alternatively, you could win a weekend for two in Barcelona. Simply pop into your local branch, or call 0800 616 848 for an application form, and enter our competition. Who knows, you too could be on your way to the 'Stade de France' for the sporting event of the millennium, courtesy of MasterCard.

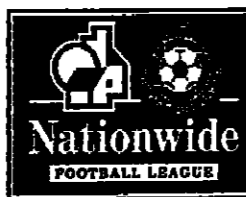
NatWest  
More than just a bank

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OFFER. CLOSING DATE FOR CREDIT CARD APPLICATIONS IS 2 APRIL 1998. CLOSING DATE FOR COMPETITION ENTRIES IS 17 APRIL 1998. Credit is only available to persons over the age of 18 years and subject to status and conditions. Written quotations are available on request from National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Leathers, London EC2P 2EP or from any branch. This competition is open to UK residents over the age of 18 years and who have successfully applied for and use the Principal Cardholder of a new NatWest Combined Card Account by 2 April 1998 and subject to the Competition Terms and Conditions which will be sent with your credit card application form. We may monitor and record your phone calls, with or without your consent, and approve our service. Our lines are open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm, Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm. Ref. No. 20103









FIRST DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the First Division, including teams like Birmingham, Bury, Crewe, Ipswich, and Middlesbrough.

SECOND DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Second Division, including teams like Blackpool, Brentford, Bristol Rovers, and Chesterfield.

THIRD DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Third Division, including teams like Brighton, Doncaster, Hull, and Leyton Orient.

GOALSCORERS

Table listing goal scorers for various football matches, including names like Alan Shearer and Paul Scholes.

GOALKEEPERS

Table listing goalkeepers for various football matches, including names like Peter Schmeichel and David Seaman.

GOALSKEEPERS

Table listing goalkeepers for various football matches, including names like Peter Schmeichel and David Seaman.



PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division, including teams like Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, and Manchester United.

FIRST DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the First Division, including teams like Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, and Manchester United.

SECOND DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Second Division, including teams like Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, and Manchester United.

THIRD DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Third Division, including teams like Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, and Manchester United.

GOALSKEEPERS

Table listing goalkeepers for various football matches, including names like Peter Schmeichel and David Seaman.

GOALSKEEPERS

Table listing goalkeepers for various football matches, including names like Peter Schmeichel and David Seaman.

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Italian League, including teams like Juventus, Lazio, and Fiorentina.

SPANISH LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Spanish League, including teams like Real Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia.

GERMAN LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the German League, including teams like Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich, and Schalke 04.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Portuguese League, including teams like Sporting CP and FC Porto.

DUTCH LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Dutch League, including teams like Ajax and PSV.

FINLAND LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Finnish League, including teams like HJK and FC Inter.

NETHERLANDS LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Netherlands League, including teams like Feyenoord and PSV.

NETHERLANDS LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Netherlands League, including teams like Feyenoord and PSV.

NETHERLANDS LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Netherlands League, including teams like Feyenoord and PSV.

NETHERLANDS LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Netherlands League, including teams like Feyenoord and PSV.

NETHERLANDS LEAGUE

Table of football fixtures and results for the Netherlands League, including teams like Feyenoord and PSV.



HOME AWAY

Table of football fixtures and results for the Carling Premiership, including teams like Manchester United, Arsenal, and Liverpool.

HOME AWAY

Table of football fixtures and results for the Carling Premiership, including teams like Manchester United, Arsenal, and Liverpool.

HOME AWAY

Table of football fixtures and results for the Carling Premiership, including teams like Manchester United, Arsenal, and Liverpool.

HOME AWAY

Table of football fixtures and results for the Carling Premiership, including teams like Manchester United, Arsenal, and Liverpool.

HOME AWAY

Table of football fixtures and results for the Carling Premiership, including teams like Manchester United, Arsenal, and Liverpool.

HOME AWAY

Table of football fixtures and results for the Carling Premiership, including teams like Manchester United, Arsenal, and Liverpool.

HOME AWAY

Table of football fixtures and results for the Carling Premiership, including teams like Manchester United, Arsenal, and Liverpool.



Chetle of Nottingham Forest holds back Adebola of Birmingham City, during Forest's 2-1 win at St Andrews. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/AdSport

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division of non-league football.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division of non-league football.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division of non-league football.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division of non-league football.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division of non-league football.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division of non-league football.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division of non-league football.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division of non-league football.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table of football fixtures and results for the Premier Division of non-league football.

TEAMtalk advertisement for transfer deadline week, featuring a list of clubs and their transfer activity.

POOLS CHECK

Table of football fixtures and results for the Pools Check section, including teams like Arsenal, Chelsea, and Liverpool.

FOOTBALL

Table of football fixtures and results for the Football section, including teams like Arsenal, Chelsea, and Liverpool.

هكمان العمل

# Beckham adds to Hoddle's plight

By Matt Dickinson

FIVE days after Manchester United's demise in the European Cup, England were still reeling from the after-effects yesterday as David Beckham took the tally of Old Trafford withdrawals from the squad to face Switzerland on Wednesday to five. A calf injury sustained in the draw with AS Monaco last week saw Beckham sent home and he was joined on the growing list of absentees by Graeme Le Saux, the Chelsea defender, who has an ankle injury.

With Andy Cole, Paul Scholes and the Neville brothers, Gary and Phil, having already dropped out of the squad, the draining of fitness and confidence among the United contingent in particular is causing Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, consternation. Nicky Butt and Teddy Sheringham should be fit enough to travel to Berné this morning, but Sheringham has been complaining of fatigue and is likely to be rested.

No wonder that Hoddle moaned over the weekend that he would be "playing people because there's nobody else". As he proved against Chile in the last international, Hoddle is not afraid to experiment. On Wednesday night, however, when he was hoping to pick a strong team, possibly spearheaded by Owen and Shearer, it will be by force rather than design.

To borrow one of Hoddle's well-worn phrases, as one door shuts another opens and the number of withdrawals could give unexpected chances to fringe players. Martin Keown is likely to return to the international scene for the first time this season and he could be joined in defence by Rio Ferdinand.

For a player admired for his composure and maturity, it has been a remarkably volatile season for the young West Ham United centre half, from the drink-driving conviction that delayed the start of his senior England career to the remarkable assuredness of his debut as a substitute against Cameroon. He has since had to cope with the first notable loss of form of his professional career and, no doubt, there were those muttering that too much had come too soon for the precocious defender.

They will have started, then, to hear Ferdinand talk after England training with such clarity and purpose about how he had learnt to cope with the questions suddenly being asked about his temperament and his talent. Some of the answers, he revealed, were to be found in Jimmy Greaves's autobiography, *This One's On Me*.



Adams and Dublin limber up during a weekend training session with England at Bisham Abbey. Photograph: Adam Butler

The book has given Ferdinand a perspective on his own problems. "When I was at school, I hated reading," he said. "I always read autobiographies, mostly sports stars, and Jimmy Greaves's is really interesting — the rough times he went through and how sorry he was for causing certain situations. I haven't been through half of what he has, but it was

interesting to read about the drinking. It is all part of character-building. It makes you a stronger person.

"It is the same with when I lost my form this season. Maybe I took my foot off the pedal. It did surprise me because I thought everything would stay good. It has brought me back down to earth. You play mind-games with yourself and it

definitely has made me focus on matches. I'm stronger for it." Should Ferdinand start his first senior game, he will be guided through by Tony Adams, who is expected to win his fiftieth cap. The Arsenal veteran, who, as a recovering alcoholic, helped Ferdinand through his drink-driving difficulties, has cast a protective arm around the youngster.

"I fear for Rio, for what the media and the whole shesbang can do to him," he said. "I didn't have anybody to look up to when I was in that position. Maybe I didn't want anybody. That was part of the stubbornness in me. But if he comes to me, I can tell him. He's a great lad. I would love him to come to Arsenal, but I don't think Harry Redknapp would sell him."

# Gould keeps Celtic on top to press Scotland claims

Phil Gordon on an encouraging day for Craig Brown's World Cup hopefuls

There is nothing quite like the gaze of a master over his pupils' shoulders for concentrating the mind. Craig Brown, the former college lecturer turned Scotland coach, could not have been unimpressed by the response he received from those who have yet to graduate to his elite corps on a day when the Bell's Scottish League premier division examinations were at their toughest.

With a full international against Denmark and the B match against Wales this week counting some way towards the final composition of his World Cup squad, several players on the fringes used their clubs' championship tests to press their claims.

Craig Burley, who could yet become Scotland's playmaker thanks to the enforced absence of Gary McAllister, displayed the sang-froid that is McAllister's trademark by converting the penalty at Pittodrie that gave Celtic a crucial win over Aberdeen to maintain their two-point advantage.

Some 70 miles down the east coast, the six Heart of Midlothian players whom Brown has called up for duty this week were proving that they are mature enough, despite their relative youth, to handle the pressure. Jim Hamilton, one of four players in the B squad, secured the second-placed club's 1-0 victory over Dundee United.

More impressive, though, were the performances of Neil McCann and Steve Fulton, the two Hearts players with the most credible chance of joining David Weir, their team-mate, in the full squad. Both men — McCann, the winger, in particular — have had the charge of inconsistency levelled at them, and leading the prosecution has been Brown.

However, Brown was warm in his praise of McCann on Saturday night. "Neil once gave one of the finest displays I have ever seen when he tore Greece apart in an under-21 match," he said. "We have been waiting for his potential to blossom for some time, but now it looks as if it has."

Fulton, the midfielder player, was equally effective in the 1-0 success, which set up an intriguing contest when he returns to his

former club, Celtic, next Saturday. Hearts will go to the top of the table if they win. However, the man they will have to beat was probably the most impressive of all of Brown's would-be World Cup players.

Jonathan Gould, the former Coventry City goalkeeper, has undergone a transformation since joining Celtic, ostensibly as cover for the injured Stewart Kerr, from Bradford City in July. Gould has found hitherto untapped reserves of confidence and ability behind a defence that has conceded only 19 league goals and he will be given a chance in the B match at Cumbernauld, against the country managed by his father, Bobby.

Against Aberdeen, he was often the barrier between Celtic and the loss of vital points with a succession of notable saves. Aberdeen had not conceded a goal at Pittodrie in eight hours until David Rowson chipped down Stéphane Mahé seconds before half-time and Burley scored his twelfth goal of the campaign.

Rangers remain five points behind their Old Firm rivals, though the 2-1 win over St Johnstone at Ibrox, procured with goals from Marco Negri and Jonas Thern, was more important for the way it stopped the champions' rot than its style.

Apart from Andy Goram and Ally McCoist, there are few Rangers players who are capable of playing for Scotland this summer. One who should play for England, though, Paul Gascoigne, seems likely to prepare for the tournament by remaining in Glasgow rather than heading to Middlesbrough. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said: "We have accepted two bids, from Crystal Palace and Middlesbrough, but the ball is with Paul and his advisers."

Advertisement for Volkswagen Sharan. The text is mostly obscured by heavy shadows and noise, but the words "And suddenly" and "Job Public" are visible. At the bottom right, the Volkswagen logo and the word "Sharan" are clearly visible.

# Berkhamsted learn their lesson to carry off title

By JOHN GOODBODY

A YEAR ago, Berkhamsted Collegiate were overwhelming favourites to win the English Schools lacrosse title but failed even to qualify from their preliminary pool in the 20-team finals. In this year's event, at Milton Keynes on Saturday, they made no mistake, beating Cheltenham Ladies' College 2-0 in the final.

Cheltenham worked assiduously with a team that included Nic McCollum, a junior England player, and Emily Reeve, a junior Wales team member, but Berkhamsted were proficient in every area of the field and scored through Tara Loch and Amy Grundy.

Anne Smith, Berkhamsted's PE director, said that they had learned their lessons from last year. She explained: "A good sportsperson hates to be beaten and remembers the experience." Smith said of the last tournament: "We had an absolute nightmare. We thought we should go through to the semi-finals and did not prepare to adapt our play and tactics for each of the four other teams in the group."

This time, with a team including six junior England A squad members, they did justify their status as favourites. They were more careful, stalwart in defence but often incisive in attack and topped their group.



SPORT IN SCHOOLS

This brought them a semi-final against Haberdashers' Aske's, whom they had beaten three times already this season. However, Haberdashers' have a distinguished pedigree, having won the title for the past four years.

Louise Priest, the Haberdashers' coach and an England B player, has rebuilt the team this winter after the departure of Ruth Loveman, her predecessor, and also six of the school's leading players. The new team still has nine A and B county players.

When asked to explain the tradition of success at Haberdashers', Priest replied: "I blame Ruth Loveman for doing such a good job. She was quite exceptional." Loveman, who was officiating on

Saturday, said: "There was a first-class commitment at Haberdashers' and the fact that the girls are bright means that you can teach them advanced tactics."

Haberdashers' won their first three preliminary pool games on Saturday, only to lose to St Swithun's 3-2 in their last game, sneaking into the semi-finals because the Winchester school had conceded more goals.

The semi-final was tense. Haberdashers' held out until two minutes from the end, contesting every move by their local rivals before conceding the decisive goal.

In the other semi-final, Cheltenham took on Queen Anne's, Caversham, eight-times winners of the tournament. In the preliminary group, Cheltenham had upset Wychcombe Abbey, who won three of their games with a total of 18 goals and none conceded. Rachel Keens, the Wychcombe coach, said: "We gave away too many fouls. We ought to have been more disciplined in our checking. But Cheltenham played very well, getting back behind the ball."

This semi-final was equally fraught. Both teams had goals disallowed when players either had their nets too loose or had attempted to tighten them before the stick-check. An extra-time goal gave Cheltenham a 2-1 victory.



A Malvern Girls' College player assesses her options on Saturday

# BASKETBALL

## Haslam fires and Bullets stay in race

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE inspired rebounding of an isolated Englishman kept Birmingham Bullets in the Budweiser League title race last night. Chris Haslam, 23, the 6ft 11in centre, who was recently included in the England squad, began to out-jump several more celebrated Americans, not to mention John Amaechi, his international team mate, just when the Bullets looked to be in danger of losing both their tempers and the match, to the Sheffield Sharks.

Haslam collected 15 rebounds as the Bullets won 102-90 in the Sheffield. He kept the pressure on the Leopards, the best game of his played the "best game of his career," Mike Finger, the coach, said, "but it was a great team victory, with everyone pitching in."

The Sharks, who are now effectively out of contention, having lost four of their five games since their Uni-ball Trophy triumph, took control when Dean Haines shot them into a 30-24 lead with a three-pointer. Tony Dorsey ended the first quarter with a jump shot as the buzzer sounded. Officials eventually allowed the score to stand and Dorsey, by now sharing the court with cheerleaders strutting their stuff, completed a three-point play, awarded for a foul by Mark Robinson.

With the help of Dorsey (28 points) and Nigel Lloyd (21), Bullets then took a 47-40 lead, only to be pulled back to 49-47 at the interval. Tempers frayed after the break, but the Bullets recovered from arrears of 84-81 with an 18-3 onslaught that was completed by Lloyd's fourth three-pointer and a Dorsey dunk. Without Haslam's frenzied pursuit of every rebound opportunity, it would not have been possible.

The Leopards have four games remaining in which to hold off Birmingham and the Newcastle Eagles, but their match at Derby Storm next Saturday might present a problem. The form team of the moment, Derby overcame Manchester Giants 95-77 on Saturday to keep ahead in their three-cornered race, involving Leicester Riders and Chester Jets, for the eighth play-off spot.

# GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated  
\* denotes all-time match

**TODAY**

**FOOTBALL**

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Colindale v Ipswich, Postlewood, Epsom v Chesham.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Reading v Stoke (7.0); Second division: Reading v Reading (7.0); Bradford v Sheffield Utd (7.0); Burnley v Shrewsbury (7.15); Third division: Newcastle v Walsal (at Gateshead) (7.0).

WINDSOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Reading v Reading (7.0); Second division: Reading v Reading (7.0); Bradford v Sheffield Utd (7.0); Burnley v Shrewsbury (7.15); Third division: Newcastle v Walsal (at Gateshead) (7.0).

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE: First division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Second division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Third division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0).

IRISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE: First division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Second division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Third division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0).

WELSH FOOTBALL LEAGUE: First division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Second division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Third division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0).

**OTHER SPORT**

RUGBY UNION: National schools sevens (at Royston Park).

**TOMORROW**

**FOOTBALL**

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v Wales (at Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld).

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Scotland v Denmark (at Fortbank Stadium, Strathclyde); Switzerland v England (at Aara Stadium, Burgdorf); Czech Republic v Ireland (2.30).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Fulham v Walsal (7.45); Gillingham v Plymouth (7.45); Third division: Shrewsbury v Lincoln (7.45).

VALDREHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Kidderminster (7.45); Welling v Farnborough (7.45).

**RUGBY UNION**

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: London Irish v Gloucester (7.30).

**OTHER SPORT**

BOXING: Commonwealth middleweight championship: T. Thurman (USA, holder) v P. Jones (Shelford) (at York Hall, Baiton Green).

GOLF: Sunningdale tournament.

SHOCKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters.

**WEDNESDAY**

**FOOTBALL**

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Czech Republic v Ireland (at Prague, 4.0); Northern Ireland v Slovakia (at Windsor Park, 8.0); Scotland v Denmark (at Broomfield, Glasgow, 8.0); Switzerland v England (at The National Stadium, Baku, 7.15); Wales v Armenia (at Ninian Park, Cardiff, 7.0).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Millwall v Plymouth (7.45).

VALDREHALL CONFERENCE: Gillingham v Slough (7.45).

SPALDING CUP: Final, first leg: Morecambe v Welling (7.45).

**RUGBY UNION**

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Newcastle v Saracens (7.30).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: North Midlands v RAF (at Macclesfield, 7.30).

BUSA CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Northumbria University v University of Wales (at Twickenham, 8.0).

**OTHER SPORT**

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v London Towers (8.0); London Leopards v London Lions (7.30); Leicester Riders v Manchester Giants (7.30); Walsley Royals v Chester Jets (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v Birmingham Bulls (8.0); Worthing Bears v London Towers (8.0).

GOLF: Sunningdale tournament.

SHOCKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters.

SQUASH: British Open pre-qualification (at Lanta Club, London).

**THURSDAY**

GOLF: Sunningdale tournament.

SHOCKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters.

SQUASH: British Open pre-qualification (at Lanta Club, London).

**FRIDAY**

**FOOTBALL**

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Bilton Rovers v Southend (7.45).

**OTHER SPORT**

BADMINTON: British grand slam tournament (at Cardiff).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v London Lions (7.30); Leicester Riders v Manchester Giants (7.30); Walsley Royals v Chester Jets (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v Birmingham Bulls (8.0); Worthing Bears v London Towers (8.0).

GOLF: Sunningdale tournament.

SHOCKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters.

SQUASH: British Open pre-qualification (at Lanta Club, London).

**SATURDAY**

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Colindale v Ipswich, Postlewood, Epsom v Chesham.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Reading v Stoke (7.0); Second division: Reading v Reading (7.0); Bradford v Sheffield Utd (7.0); Burnley v Shrewsbury (7.15); Third division: Newcastle v Walsal (at Gateshead) (7.0).

WINDSOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Reading v Reading (7.0); Second division: Reading v Reading (7.0); Bradford v Sheffield Utd (7.0); Burnley v Shrewsbury (7.15); Third division: Newcastle v Walsal (at Gateshead) (7.0).

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE: First division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Second division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Third division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0).

IRISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE: First division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Second division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Third division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0).

WELSH FOOTBALL LEAGUE: First division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Second division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0); Third division: Dundee v Dundee (7.0).

**OTHER SPORT**

RUGBY UNION: National schools sevens (at Royston Park).

**SUNDAY**

**FOOTBALL**

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v Wales (at Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld).

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Scotland v Denmark (at Fortbank Stadium, Strathclyde); Switzerland v England (at Aara Stadium, Burgdorf); Czech Republic v Ireland (2.30).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Fulham v Walsal (7.45); Gillingham v Plymouth (7.45); Third division: Shrewsbury v Lincoln (7.45).

VALDREHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Kidderminster (7.45); Welling v Farnborough (7.45).

**RUGBY UNION**

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: London Irish v Gloucester (7.30).

**OTHER SPORT**

BOXING: Commonwealth middleweight championship: T. Thurman (USA, holder) v P. Jones (Shelford) (at York Hall, Baiton Green).

GOLF: Sunningdale tournament.

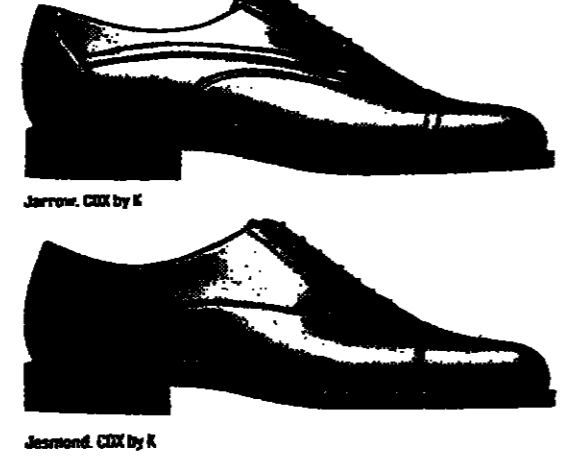
SHOCKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters.

SQUASH: British Open pre-qualification (at Lanta Club, London).

We are not suggesting anyone needs to jump hurdles over the nearest filing cabinet. Nor are we saying running rings around the boss is a wise political move. But if we tell you that CDX by K is a classic, executive style shoe with all the advanced design innovation of a sports shoe, then you might be catching our drift.

Today's sophisticated trainers feature an unsurpassed level of 'comfort technology'. To incorporate similar design features in shoes for work (which we spend the majority of our time wearing) would make sense. And that's precisely what we've done.

The results of this are benefits previously only heard of on the sports field. The CDX range offers an anti-shock system between your heel, ball of foot and the ground reducing impact and tiredness. Beneath the deceptive executive exterior is an under-foot carbon layer which absorbs moisture and heat keeping your feet cooler.



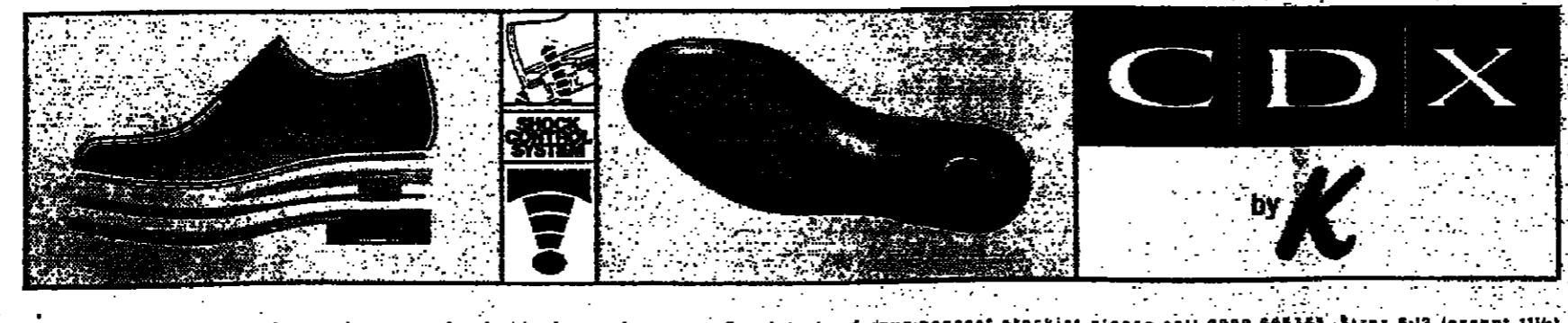
Add to this other CDX features, such as full calf leather linings and socks for a breathable environment. Plus, the CDX 'anti-slip, hardwearing, K-Tread 700 section' within a high quality leather sole - a design which provides extra grip and durability.

# Run around the office like an athlete.



So now you know the facts, you are probably expecting a high cost for such comfort. Let us tell you the best news -

the features you'd normally expect from an athlete's running shoe. Make sure you race around to your nearest K Shoe Shop, Clarks Shop or leading K Stockist to try on a pair today.



CDX shoes by K incorporate a wide range of individual specifications. For details of your nearest stockist please call 0800-665363. Sizes 6-12 (except 11 1/2).

BBC

Henn minc et an







RACING

Racecourses embrace enterprise culture

By Chris McGrath

THE lifejacket has been punctured and now racecourses must sink or swim...

to drift towards the bottom... "The board feels that the time has come to make the racing table work more dynamically..."

For the first time, off-course turnover generated by each track will be a key factor in the distribution of the resulting levy.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: WATER FONT (2.30 Newcastle) NB: Alpine Hideaway (3.30 Newcastle)

and the remainder will be allocated according to the position of each course in its merit table.

This will now incorporate an umbilical relationship between the races staged by each course and the money wagered on them in betting shops.

Rodney Brack, chief executive of the Levy Board, yesterday confirmed that the new regime was expected to raise any complacent courses from their lethargy.

According to last year's table, courses most provoked by the new scheme will include Folkestone, Catterick, Hereford and Hexham.

At the other end of the spectrum, Aintree, Ascot and Cheltenham enjoy obvious advantages of profile. It is the middle ground that is more revealing: executive and sponsorship at Thirsk and Ripon, for instance, covered around 24 per cent of prize-money offered.

Nor is there room for complacency at the premier course, whose responsibility to earn their advantages is also being emphasised. The pattern race allocation is to be phased over the next three years.



Chris Maude falls spectacularly at Uttoxeter on Saturday after Wisley Wonder refuses at the second last when leading in the Tote Novices' Chase final, causing Richard Johnson to be thrown from the hampered Greville Again

Diplomacy eases Embassy fears

EVERY year, though Aintree and Puchestown are still to come, it is almost as though Cheltenham has temporarily surpassed the limits of drama offered by National Hunt racing...

in the Queen Mother Champion Chase last Wednesday. If Ask Tom now looks a highly inappropriate name, Embassy offers due reminder of Godolphin's exemplary public relations...

misses the Dubai World Cup. Kevin Prendergast, the Irish challenger's trainer, said: "He has incurred a slight injury to his near-front tendon, causing some inflammation..."

Alner maintains momentum

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

COOL DAWN'S Gold Cup triumph was the centre of conversation at Larkhill on Saturday, when the New Forest Buckhounds held their last meeting.

It was easy to spot those who had backed Robert Alner's Cheltenham winner - they grinned a lot, having secured a handsome profit with the 25-1 winner.

maiden under John (JD) Moore, 20, who seems certain to become this season's national novice champion rider. Purbeck Prince, a six-year-old, is a good-sized horse who did not seem entirely happy on the fast ground...

who leads the women's title race with nine victories after winning on Warren Boy at the Currie fixture, and Heather Irving, just one behind, who had two falls but two winners at the Grafton. Bunny Tarry's grand-daughter, Lucy Goodwin, made a successful debut there on Lucky Christopher in the ladies' open.

DETAILS FROM TEN FIXTURES

Table listing race details for Cambridge, Southwell, and other courses, including race names, distances, and participants.

Table listing details for National Hunt Leaders, including trainer and jockey names and their respective horses.

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

Table with columns for Trainer, Horse Name, and Jockey, listing the current leaders in various hunt categories.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER 2.15 Falls O'Nease, 2.45 Kingfisher, 3.15 Little Brave, 3.45 Read, 4.15 Mystical Ridge, 4.50 KNOTTY HILL (nap).

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

Table for 2.15 THOR APPRENTICE FILLES HANDICAP, listing race details and participant names.

2.45 CARNOUSTE CLAIMING STAKES

Table for 2.45 CARNOUSTE CLAIMING STAKES, listing race details and participant names.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table listing course specialists for Southwell, including horse names and their respective trainers.

Table listing results from Saturday's five meetings, including race names and winners.

3.15 MUIRFIELD MAIDEN STAKES

Table for 3.15 MUIRFIELD MAIDEN STAKES, listing race details and participant names.

3.45 GLENLEAGLES HANDICAP

Table for 3.45 GLENLEAGLES HANDICAP, listing race details and participant names.

4.15 SANDWICH SELLING STAKES

Table for 4.15 SANDWICH SELLING STAKES, listing race details and participant names.

4.50 ST ANDREWS HANDICAP

Table for 4.50 ST ANDREWS HANDICAP, listing race details and participant names.

Table with race times for Thunderer, including Pebble Beach, Water Front, and Secret Bay.

GUIDE TO THE TABLE HANDICAP: Includes a key for handicap ratings and a list of race details with odds.

Table for 2.00 NORTHERN RACING NOVICES CHASE, listing race details and participant names.

2.30 WILLOWS CATERING COMPANY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE: Details for a selling hurdle race with various participants.

3.00 NORTHERN HUSSARS HUNTERS CHASE: Details for a hunters chase race with various participants.

3.30 M J DONALDSON CLAIMING HURDLE: Details for a claiming hurdle race with various participants.

4.00 GREAT NORTH ROAD HANDICAP CHASE: Details for a handicap chase race with various participants.

4.35 TOWN & COUNTRY NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE: Details for a novice hunters chase race with various participants.

5.05 ST MILDREN'S INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE: Details for an intermediate national hunt flat race with various participants.

5.30 ST MILDREN'S NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE: Details for a national hunt flat race with various participants.

5.55 ST MILDREN'S NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE: Details for another national hunt flat race with various participants.

6.00 ST MILDREN'S NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE: Details for another national hunt flat race with various participants.

6.05 ST MILDREN'S NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE: Details for another national hunt flat race with various participants.

6.10 ST MILDREN'S NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE: Details for another national hunt flat race with various participants.

6.15 ST MILDREN'S NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE: Details for another national hunt flat race with various participants.

RACELINE logo and contact information for a racing service.

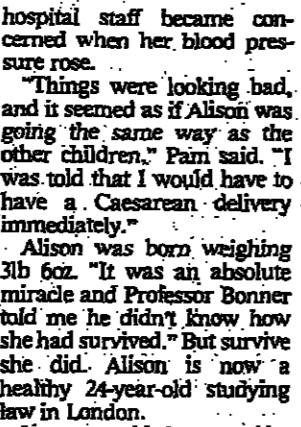
Advertisement for a betting or racing-related service, including Arabic text and a logo.



# Crossing the emotional pain barrier

Few people entering the Flora London Marathon will have suffered such searing personal loss as Pam Hastie from Banbury in Oxfordshire. When people speak of the suffering they undergo in long-distance running, what they mean is largely physical pain, something quickly forgotten when the effort is finished.

She lost four babies but never gave up hope. She runs with fellow sufferers in mind. And whatever time she finishes in, she is a champion, John Goodbody says



Dedication: Pam Hastie limbers up before a training run

By contrast, the emotional disturbance caused by stillbirth is endlessly distressing. Pam has lost four babies, all from pre-eclampsia, a fairly common but potentially very dangerous complication in pregnancy which affects both mother and unborn child. It is usually diagnosed at a routine antenatal check, when the mother-to-be is found to have raised blood pressure and protein in her urine.

Pam and her husband, Richard, could have lost a fifth child to pre-eclampsia, had it not been for medical expertise. The birth of their daughter, Alison, in 1973 was the result of both surgical skill and the couple's utter determination to have their own baby.

hospital staff became concerned when her blood pressure rose. "Things were looking bad, and it seemed as if Alison was going the same way as the other children," Pam said. "I was told that I would have to have a Caesarean delivery immediately."

predicted. "I was absolutely useless at running at school. I was not interested at all." Her husband ran two London Marathons but Pam did not start exercising in earnest until the couple celebrated their silver wedding anniversary in St Lucia. She spent some of the holiday swimming and jogging.

## SPORT FOR ALL

way, the coming-of-age of Alison, who had celebrated her 21st birthday the previous November, and also to raise money for Action on Pre-eclampsia. "I trained religiously for the event, following all the advice in magazine articles," says Pam. "I became sick of the sight of pasta. But it was a fantastic day—I enjoyed every step of the way. I did not really push myself and finished as fresh as a daisy."

"It was fantastic. I enjoyed every step of the way. I didn't really push myself and finished as fresh as a daisy"



On the road: Pam believes runners must listen to the body when it cries "enough"

least three miles every day of the week and, in the build-up to this marathon, having the customary long run on Sundays.

Her training advice is simple. "Don't do 'junk' miles. If my legs feel heavy, I won't run. If I feel like a rest day, I have one. But two weeks ago I did 20 miles and felt tremendous. I also pamper myself a bit when I am doing all this training, by going to the beautician. It makes up for the hard work you put in."

Like Diana, Princess of Wales, she is a Cancerian and the impact of the Princess's death fully came home to her when she recently completed the Althorp Run, a hilly half-marathon in Northamptonshire, where the Princess is buried.

"There were notes and flowers and poems at Althorp House," she remembered. "You read them and cried." Pam will be running the marathon next month "as a mark of respect", she said. "As I run, I will be thinking of her two boys walking behind the coffin at the funeral. That must have been an emotional marathon for them."

## 'I love my beer. I can always fit in drinking with running'

Frank Murphy, of Ireland, used to be one of the hell-raisers of European athletics. He was the kind of runner who would first run you into the ground and then drink you under the table. Murphy was his country's answer to David Bedford, of Great Britain, whose feats on and off the track were equally memorable. You could fill a book with their stories. Someday somebody probably will.

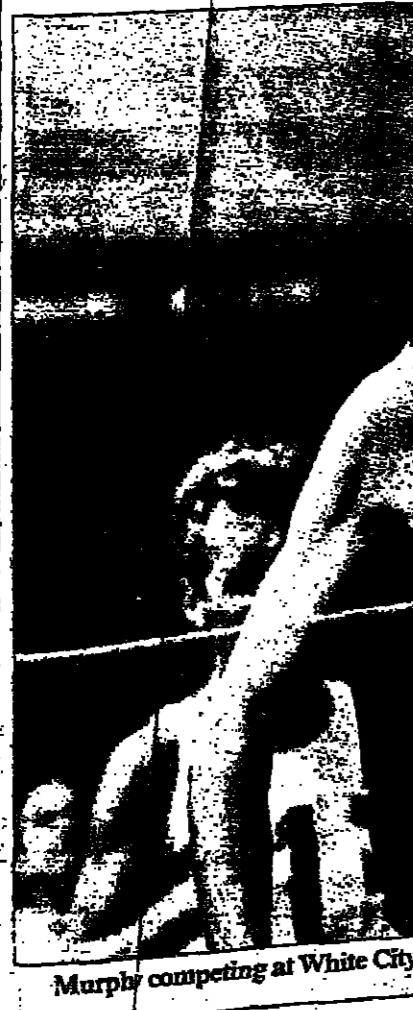
John Goodbody is captivated by the Irish charm of a former Olympian and marathon man

Zhr 32min. Last year, aged 50, he ran the New York Marathon only an hour slower. He is now happily training between 50 and 60 miles a week, usually eight miles most mornings at 6.15am, and a long run on Sunday. He is suffering from a slight back injury, which he claims, with a smile, was sustained by lifting too many barrels in the pubs that he has opened.

Twice an Olympian, Murphy finished second in the 1,500 metres at the 1969 European championships and was part of the tradition of smiling Irish runners who stretched from Ronnie Delany, the 1956 Olympic champion, through Eamonn Coughlan, the 1988 world 5,000 metres champion, to Sonia O'Sullivan, world champion in 1995. All could speak as fluently as they could run, and most of them went to Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where they were fêted by America's immigrant Irish community.

His varied career has included getting a BA in economics and an MA in marketing at Villanova, running restaurants and pubs in Cork and New York, being the top salesperson for Abbey Life in Ireland for three successive years, being one of the ten members of the Scruffy Murphy Syndicate of friends and fellow-drinkers who won £2.5 million between them in the Irish lottery, and now being a director of the CKMP advertising agency in Dublin.

Now he has to stretch his back every day before training. However, he says that he gets more trouble from the injury while playing golf than he does when running. Murphy believes the one significant factor in achieving marathon success is to exercise, eat and sleep at the same time each day. "I carry on my life like a clock. The body gets used to a set routine. It is something that I recommend to anyone." This is particularly important on the day of a race. A runner should do everything in the same order and not introduce anything new, such as an unusual diet or stretching exercises.



Murphy competing at White City, 1969. Nowadays he takes running a bit less seriously — but not much

But running has been a frequent thread in his life: "It is difficult to get fit out of the system after so many years." During the 1960s and 1970s Murphy was a regular visitor to Britain, winning the Amateur Athletics Association 1,500 metres in 1969. After failing to make his third successive Olympic Games in 1976, he had a brief break from athletics. But the urge to run eventually was too much. Murphy ran his first marathon in 1979 to raise money for the roof of a parish church in Cork. He collected more than £18,000 with his time of

When you are as talented as Murphy, you can sometimes get away with it, just as he did when he was often beating the best in Europe 30 years ago.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT  
This deal is from the sixth round of the 1997 Gold Cup. Declarer paid the price for underestimating a defender's cunning:

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer South, Love all, IMPs, and card layout for Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs, and Notrump.

North-South were playing the strong (15-17) no-trump, so declarer's 2NT rebid was weak. North was value for a 3NT response, but improvised with Two Clubs to allow South to bid no-trumps first to protect any tenaces he might have had, especially in spades.

WORD-WATCHING  
By Philip Howard

- PROTEUS a. A proponent b. An amoeba c. A quick-change artist
- RANDAN a. A parade-ground in India b. Coarse cloth c. Funny rowing
- RUELLE a. A prostitute b. A cream sauce c. Space between bed and wall
- PRAESEPE a. Pretty often b. A stable c. Stars

## KEENE on CHESS

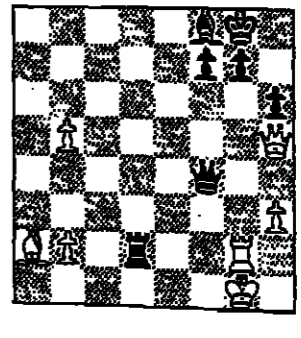
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Anand's victory  
This week, I finish coverage of the important Linares tournament, which confirmed Viswanathan Anand's outstanding reputation. In the game today, which was instrumental in the closing stages of the tournament in securing first prize for Anand, the Indian grandmaster, he wins a long endgame against the tournament bottom marker.

Chess Sicilian Defence game record showing moves 1-32 for both White and Black.

WINNING MOVE  
By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is a variation from the game Van Wely — Topalov, Wijk aan Zee, 1998. Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster, holds a place among the world's elite. What is the fastest way to finish off his opponent here?



AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

# WIN A FERRARI

## ENTER THE BRAZILIAN RACE TODAY

Plus Grand Prix holidays to Australia and Monaco to be won



There is still time to enter a team for Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix in Interlagos, the first of six races that carry up to 600 bonus points for correctly predicting any of the first three drivers to finish. You can enter by post or phone. Postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday to qualify. Choose your fantasy team with care by picking your drivers and constructors from the groups specified below. The overall winner of our Fantasy Formula One game will drive away at the end of the grand-prix.



**AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX RESULTS**

**DRIVERS Qualifying points** (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M Hakkinen 30 points; 2nd D Coulthard 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th J Villeneuve 23; 5th J Herbert 22; 6th H-H Frenzen 21; 7th G Fisichella 20; 8th E Irvine 19; 9th R Schumacher 18; 10th D Hill 17; 11th A Wurz 16; 12th J Alesi 15; 13th T Takagi 14; 14th R Barrichello 13; 15th J Trulli 12; 16th M Salo 11; 17th E Tuero 10; 18th J Magnussen 9; 19th R Rosset 8; 20th P Diniz 7.

**Finishing points** (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st M Hakkinen 60 points; 2nd D Coulthard 50; 3rd H-H Frenzen 40; 4th E Irvine 30; 5th J Villeneuve 29; 6th J Herbert 28; 7th A Wurz 27; 8th D Hill 26; 9th O Panis 25.

(Only 9 were classified.) **Lap points** (one point for each lap completed): M Hakkinen 58 points; D Coulthard 58; H-H Frenzen 57; E Irvine 57; J Villeneuve 57; J Herbert 57; A Wurz 57; D Hill 57; O Panis 57; G Fisichella 43; J Alesi 41; J Trulli 26; R Rosset 25; M Salo 23; E Tuero 22; S Nakano 8; M Schumacher 5; P Diniz 2; R Schumacher 1; J Magnussen 1; T Takagi 1; R Barrichello 0. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position** (3 points for each improved place): O Panis 36 points; E Irvine 12; A Wurz 12; H-H Frenzen 9; D Hill 6. **Fastest lap:** M Hakkinen 10 points. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): P Diniz -10. **Did not finish the race** (10 points deducted): M Schumacher -10; G Fisichella -10; J Alesi -10; R Barrichello -10; R Schumacher -10; J Trulli -10; M Salo -10; P Diniz -10; J Magnussen -10; T Takagi -10; R Rosset -10; S Nakano -10; E Tuero -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): R Rosset -5; E Tuero -5. **Black Flag** (20 points deducted): none.

**CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points** (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): McLaren 30 points; Williams 24; Ferrari 23; Sauber 21; Benetton 20; Jordan 19; Prost 18. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): Arrows -10 points. **Elimination of a car during the race** (10 points deducted): Arrows -20 points; Stewart -20; Tyrrell -20; Minardi -20; Ferrari -10; Benetton -10; Jordan -10; Prost -10; Sauber -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): Tyrrell -5 points; Minardi -5.

**BONUS POINTS** apply to six grands prix during the 1998 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian Grand Prix. **Correctly predicting winning driver:** 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

**MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW**

Damon Hill      David Coulthard      Jacques Villeneuve      Michael Schumacher      Eddie Irvine

DRIVERS				CONSTRUCTORS			
GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
01 D Hill	100	07 J Villeneuve	27	01 McLaren	30	01 Williams	24
02 M Schumacher	24	08 E Irvine	19	02 Ferrari	23	02 Sauber	21
03 D Coulthard	25	09 M Hakkinen	30	03 Benetton	20	03 Jordan	19
04 G Fisichella	20	10 J Trulli	12	04 Prost	18	04 Tyrrell	20
05 J Villeneuve	23	11 A Wurz	16	05 McLaren	30	05 Minardi	20
06 E Irvine	19	12 D Hill	17	06 Ferrari	23	06 Williams	24
07 J Villeneuve	23	13 R Barrichello	13	07 Benetton	20	07 Jordan	19
08 E Irvine	19	14 R Rosset	8	08 McLaren	30	08 Tyrrell	20
09 M Hakkinen	30	15 J Trulli	12	09 Prost	18	09 Minardi	20
10 J Trulli	12	16 M Salo	11	10 McLaren	30	10 Williams	24
11 A Wurz	16	17 E Tuero	10	11 Benetton	20	11 Jordan	19
12 D Hill	17	18 J Magnussen	9	12 McLaren	30	12 Tyrrell	20
13 R Barrichello	13	19 R Rosset	8	13 Ferrari	23	13 Williams	24
14 R Rosset	8	20 P Diniz	7	14 Benetton	20	14 Jordan	19
15 J Trulli	12			15 McLaren	30	15 Tyrrell	20
16 M Salo	11			16 Ferrari	23	16 Williams	24
17 E Tuero	10			17 Benetton	20	17 Jordan	19
18 J Magnussen	9			18 McLaren	30	18 Tyrrell	20
19 R Rosset	8			19 Ferrari	23	19 Williams	24
20 P Diniz	7			20 Benetton	20	20 Jordan	19

**FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 40 50 01**  
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK 0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls)

**THE PRIZES**

**STAR PRIZE** The manager with the top score on our fantasy leaderboard after the final race of the season will win a Ferrari 328 GTB from Garage on the Green, Fulham, London SW6.

**PRIZES OF VIP** trips for two to the 1998 Australian and Monaco Grands Prix will go to the two runners-up.

**INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS** The manager of the team that scores the most points in each grand prix will win a pair of four-day passes, with centre transfer, for the 1998 or 1999 British Grands Prix, courtesy of Silverstone

For details of events at Silverstone call 01753 557272

**TRANSFERS**

You can change up to four selections before the Brazilian race by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday March 26 with your 10-digit PIN to hand. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D.

**RESULTS SERVICE**

**BY PHONE:** check the score and position of your team(s) after the Australian race by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN.

**BY FAX:** have your 10-digit PIN ready, pick up the handset on your fax and dial 0991 111 444. Follow the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. You will receive details of your race score, the points for your drivers and constructors and your position on our leaderboard. If your fax does not have a handset, press the on-hook or telephone button instead. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only. If you have any problems using the faxback service, call the helpline on 0171-412 3795

**TO ENTER BY POST**

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply.

**TO ENTER BY PHONE**

Readers in the UK must call 0891 40 50 01 (Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 311). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made by Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. Then give your team name (up to 16 characters) and details. You can enter until noon on Thursday, March 26, 1998 to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix

**THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM**

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. For readers resident outside the UK or ROI the fee is £15. Post it to: **The Times Fantasy Formula One**, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Your entry must be received by first post on Wednesday, March 25, 1998 to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix.

**GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS**

1st	2nd	3rd
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS**

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Day tel \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Payment Card number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry date     MasterCard  Visa

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_  
Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times?  
Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday  Sunday  Don't usually buy The Times

2. Which other National Daily Newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

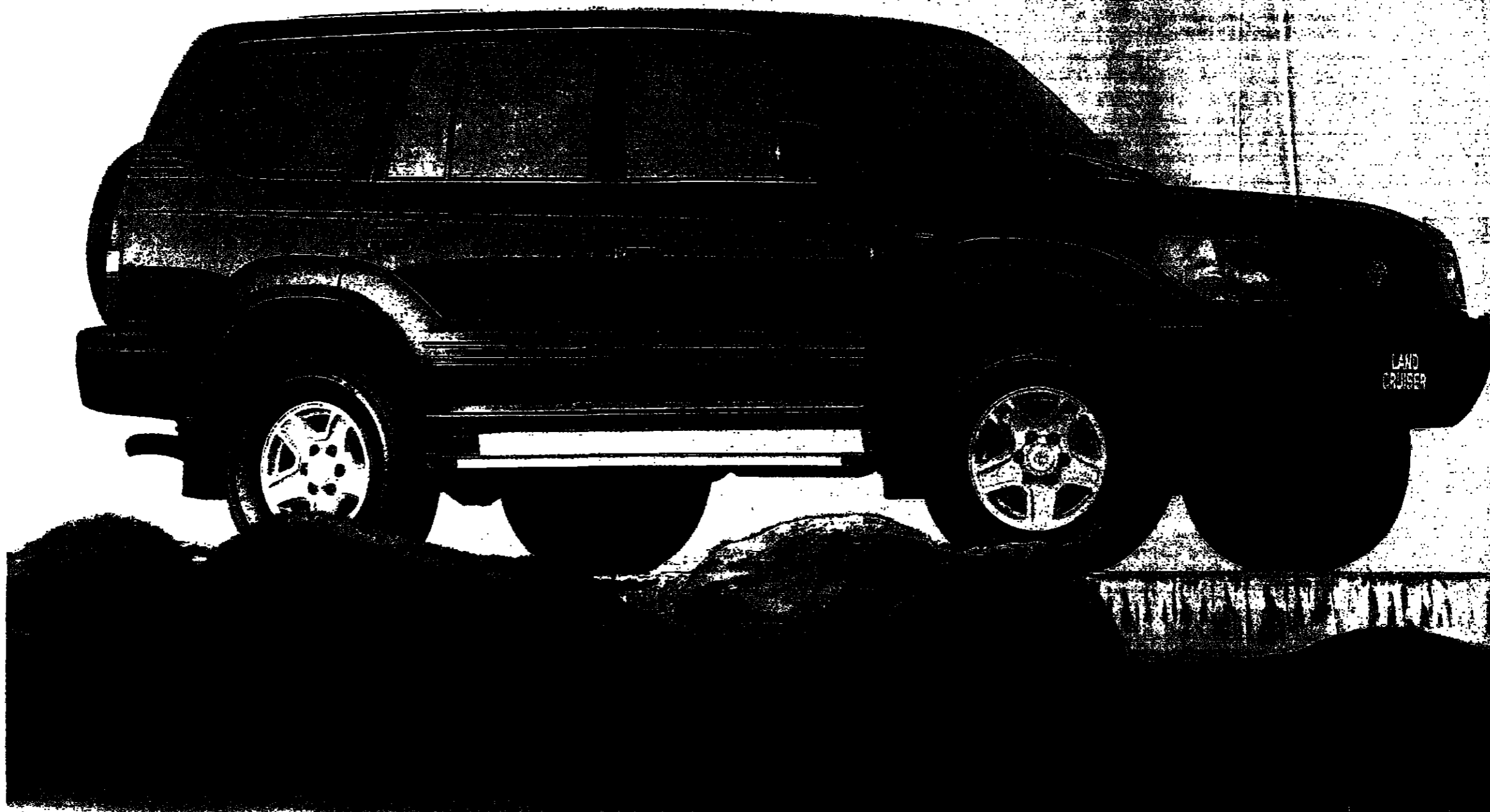
If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick



AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

# FOUR TOYOTA LAND CRUISERS TO BE WON



## Cars for an action-packed lifestyle

Today *The Times* offers readers the chance to win one of four Toyota Land Cruiser Colorados, one of the best 4 x 4s around.

- COLLECT YOUR TOKENS AND YOU COULD WIN:**
- a five-door Land Cruiser Colorado GX worth £27,874\* on the road
  - a three-door Land Cruiser Colorado GS worth £21,039\* on the road

We have two of each model to be won with one year's road tax plus a three-year 60,000-mile warranty.

These cars offer high levels of driving refinement both off and on-road and are backed by the world-renowned reliability of Toyota.

The high driving position gives excellent visibility, something you will appreciate on a mountain track or the school run. Power-assisted steering makes manoeuvring and parking easier. And on the open road you will appreciate the responsive 3-litre turbo-diesel engine.

For your nearest Toyota dealer, call 0800 777 555



### HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect seven differently numbered tokens from the 19 to be published in *The Times* until Saturday, April 11. Tokens are below. You can enter our free prize-draw as many times as you want. The first entry form will appear in Saturday's paper. Each entry must be accompanied by seven differently numbered tokens. The closing date for receipt of entries is Monday April 20, 1998.

### FEATURES OF THE TOYOTA LAND CRUISER COLORADO GS AND GX

Both models have: twin airbags, side impact beams, electric front windows, remote central locking, front and rear cup holders, tilt adjustable steering column, power-assisted steering, driver seat lumbar support and height adjustment, 4-speaker Sony RDS radio/cassette. The GX has all the above plus: air conditioning, electronically controlled ABS, electric external mirrors, leather covered steering wheel, alloy wheels, 4-speaker Sony radio/CD player.

### TOKEN 3 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE TIMES TOMORROW

Terms and Conditions 1 Entrants must be 18 years or over and residents of the UK or Republic of Ireland. 2 You can enter the prize draw as many times as you wish. Each entry must be on an official entry form (no photocopies accepted), accompanied by seven differently numbered tokens from *The Times*. 3 Entry forms will be published in *The Times* on Saturday March 28, April 4 and April 11. 4 Tokens will be printed daily in *The Times* between March 21 and April 11, 1998. 5 Entries must be received by Monday April 20, 1998. 6 Winners will be drawn at random from all correct entries received. 7 Staff of *The Times*, *Newspapers Ltd* and Toyota (GB) Ltd and their families or agents are not permitted to enter. 8 The prizes do not include insurance which will be the responsibility of the winners and must be provided before the

vehicles are driven away. 9 Collection of the cars is the responsibility of the individual winners. The cars will be available for collection from your nearest Toyota dealer. To find the name and address of your nearest Toyota dealer, call 0800 777 555. 10 In the event of a winner/loss from the Irish Republic *The Times* and Toyota will not be responsible for any costs incurred, including those in collecting the prizes from the UK. 11 There is no cash alternative and prizes must be accepted as offered. Winners cannot specify the car they wish to receive. 12 No purchase necessary. You can obtain bonus tokens and an entry form by sending a stamped a4 to: *The Times/Toyota Land Cruiser Token Request*, PO Box 5084, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7GG. A maximum of two tokens per one postcard and requests must be received by Friday

April 10, 1998. You can collect the tokens each day in person (between 10am and 5pm) from: 1 Virginie St, London E1 6JQ; 2 124, Portman St, Haringey Park, Glasgow G41 4JF; 3 The Post Office, 35-36 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. 13 The prize draw will be independently operated. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 14 Winners will be notified by post on 10/04/98. 15 Winner's name and photograph may be used for publicity purposes. 16 The prize is subject to change at any time without notice. 17 Normal T&Cs apply, available by sending a stamped a4 to the above address. 18 For a full list of prize winners, visit our website: [www.times.co.uk/competitions](http://www.times.co.uk/competitions). Department, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 5JL. 19 Prizes are subject to change without notice.



Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

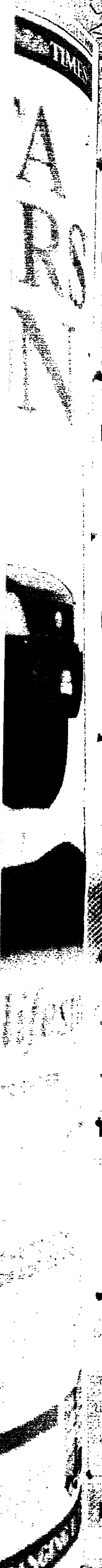
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS

INVESTMENT TRUSTS, ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, LEISURE & HOTELS, OIL & GAS, BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years), INSURANCE, MEDUMS (5 to 15 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation at 5%)

OTHER FINANCIAL, MEDIA, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, RETAILERS, GENERAL, ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

MITEL logo with tagline 'Dividends guaranteed' and 'Simply Communicating'.





مكتبة النور



# Dear Liffe,

thanks to our members in London, Chicago and worldwide DTB now has a nice share of up to seventy percent in BUND Futures. Sorry, Liffe, we did not want to become part of your problem, we prefer to be part of a solution.

That's why we offered to cooperate and to implement the DTB system at Liffe - for free! Deutsche Börse's DTB-System has proven over years to be one of the most sophisticated electronic trading systems for derivatives in the world, and one of the most reliable.

DTB members benefit from the lowest transaction costs as well as low member fees and DTB concentrates liquidity in one orderbook.

Don't you think your members would like to enjoy this benefit as well? So, why don't we work together and thus strengthen the new pan-European trading grid for the benefit of our customers? Or does an additional trading system in Europe make sense?

Sincerely yours  
Deutsche Börse

**Deutsche  
Börse**

If you want to join DTB or need more information: Our address in the City.  
Deutsche Börse AG • UK Representative Office  
50 Cannon Street • London EC 4N 6JJ • Phone: (171) 77 89 310

THE FACTS

Market cap: £18.7 billion
Operating income: £6.97 billion
Pre-tax profit: £1.01 billion
Staff worldwide: 70,000
Overview: The smallest of the Big Four high street clearers with a presence in retail and corporate banking, mortgages, cards, insurance, long-term savings and investments, private banking and equity finance, global debt markets, treasury and corporate advice.

THE BOARD

AS one would expect, bankers dominate the NatWest board, but there is also a fair sprinkling of retailers, industrialists, lawyers and academics. There are no fewer than three lords and five knights. NatWest's chairman, Lord Alexander of Wee-don, had a distinguished career at the Bar before entering industry. He has served as a director of Rio Tinto and the Securities and Investments Board and is expected to step down in April 1999. His replacement, working with Derek Wanless, the chief executive, is likely to be Lord Blyth of Rowington, the deputy chairman and chief executive of Boots, who was appointed to the NatWest board last month. He takes his place alongside the Boots chairman, Sir Michael Angus, who has been a NatWest director since 1991. Lord Hurd of Westwell was Foreign Secretary between 1989 and 1995, during which time he would have run into another NatWest director, Sir Charles Powell, once private secretary to Margaret Thatcher. Recent non-executive appointees include Sir David Rowland, former Lloyd's chairman, and Anthony Habgood, chairman of Buzel. Other worthies include Pen Kent, an executive director of the Bank of England until his retirement in 1997, and Paul Myers, founder of Gartmore, the NatWest fund management subsidiary. Sir John Banham, former Director-General of the CBI, bows out at next month's annual meeting after five years. Sir Desmond Pither resigned from the board last month. Other non-executives include Martin Taylor, a Vickers director and one-time vice-chairman of Hanson. No relation to his namesake at Barclays.

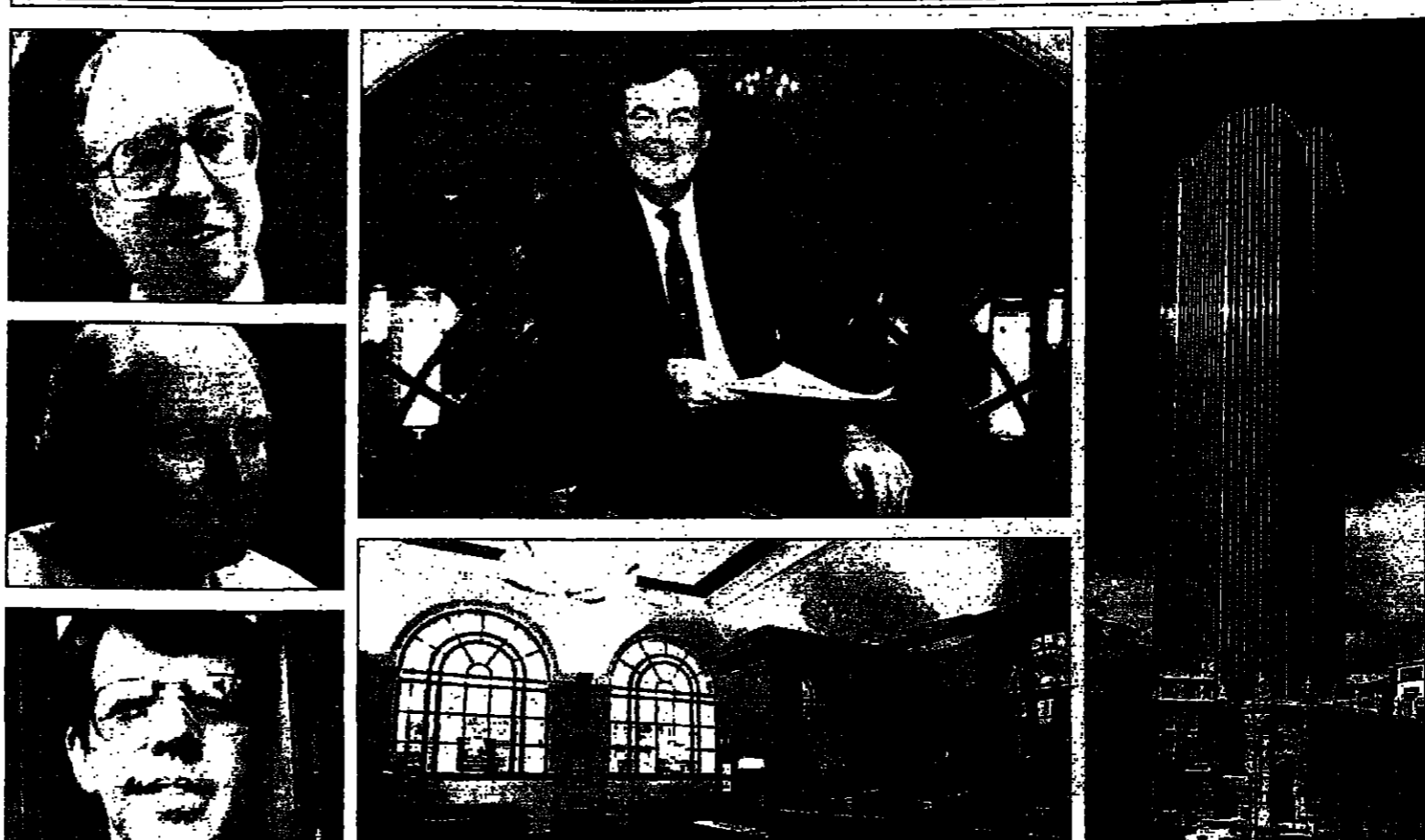
Politicians rarely apologise for their mistakes, captains of industry even less so. But at the end of February, the chief executive of National Westminster Bank broke with this tradition. Before a gathering of City analysts, Derek Wanless held up his hands and said: "Mea culpa."

By anyone's standards, 1997 was a terrible year for NatWest. A 10 per cent drop in pre-tax profits, a £706 million loss at NatWest Markets, its investment banking division, and an £80 million provision against possible losses in South-East Asia — all conspired to make it the bank's annus horribilis.

The decline of this once-great bank began in the recession of the early 1990s — some say with the sale of its Latin American debt at the bottom of the market — but the rot did not really become evident until 1993. Since then, its performance has lagged the rest of the sector in most years. As one senior banking analyst remarks, NatWest has been the "perennial under-achiever" of the decade, much as Midland was in the 1980s.

Yet, as the old cliché goes, reversing this decline is like turning round a supertanker. NatWest may now be the smallest of the Big Four high street clearers, but it remains the tenth-largest bank in the world by market capitalisation. It employs some 70,000 people, many still located at its 1,750 branches dotted across the UK and Ireland.

CORPORATE PROFILE



Derek Wanless, top centre, may have said mea culpa but it was Martin Owen, bottom left, who walked. Lord Blyth, centre left, is widely expected to succeed Lord Alexander. The group, which owns the International Financial Centre, formerly the NatWest Tower, still has an extensive network of branches

ly left for new pastures, and shortly afterwards, the bank took the decision to withdraw from equities. The UK equities business was sold to Bankers Trust, the derivatives business to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, and the overseas equities operations either disposed of, or simply dismantled.

NatWest Markets' losses in 1997 pulled down the performance of the whole group. The post-tax return on equity (ROE) was 10.8 per cent, against 16.4 per cent in the previous year and 40 per cent at Lloyds TSB. With the equities business off the books by the end of the second quarter this year, Mr Wanless hopes to boost the ROE figure and has set a relatively modest target of 17.5 per cent by the end of the year.

Going forward, Mr Wanless has vowed to concentrate on the bank's core domestic business. NatWest has embarked on a four to five-year programme aimed at rebuilding its retail and commercial bank. It is investing hundreds of millions of pounds in reshaping the branch network with a view to shifting more product, improving service levels and making huge cost savings. As a result, some 10,000 jobs will go

by the end of the century. Uncharacteristically for a mathematician, Mr Wanless is rather coy about putting figures on the actual level of investment, or on the expected savings. But 18 months into the programme, he says it is already generating significant

savings. Nor does he contest analysts' estimates that the job cuts alone will put back £300 million into the bank's coffers each year. But will Mr Wanless be given enough time to build his new bank? Institutional investors are growing uneasy about the bank's lack of performance, and while they have not descended on the bank's Ladbroke headquarters in mass protest, buying for blood, they have let it be known discreetly that their patience is beginning to run out.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

NatWest is the great under-achiever of the sector. It was slow off the block to shrink the low margin corporate lending, and realisation of its problems came only in 1995. But NatWest will be turned around, because, if this management does not do it, another management will. Peter Coonan, AGN Asset. The group's strategy is now clear. Without the distractions of acquiring and managing an investment banking business, management possesses all the skills and experience to realise the earnings power of the franchise. Patrick Barton, Credit Suisse First Boston. Although the market is unlikely to give NatWest credit for the recovery potential until it is realised, the fundamental uncertainties are tempered by consolidation possibilities. Hugh Pys, Robert Flemings Securities.

City analysts say NatWest is a good rationalisation play: a UK bank of similar size could make substantial savings, turning problems with the competition authorities. A marriage of Barclays and NatWest would give the combined three more than half of the business banking market, a prospect that is unlikely to find favour with the MMC. In any event, the high prices demanded in the marketplace argue against a hostile takeover, so, in financial theory at least, NatWest is safe from unwanted advances. Mr Wanless is quite clear on the issue: he wants to be left alone to build his new bank. Aside from a company to boost NatWest's life and pensions business, he is not particularly interested in acquisitions either. The crunch will come for Mr Wanless at the year's end. If he fails to hit the ROE target of 17.5 per cent, shareholders are sure to turn up the heat. Asked whether he would resign if the bank fell short of its aim, he responds: "It depends. We have said the board is determined to return 17.5 per cent. But banking is about risk." Mr Wanless received total remuneration of £1.03 million in 1996 (the most up-to-date figures available) making him almost 57 per cent overpaid according to the BEST model used by Crisp Consulting. Non-executives were typically paid below average, but their numbers — above the recommended level of seven — contribute to a poor "fat-cat" rating. Integrity Works gives NatWest a 7/10 for ethical expression, saying the group's code of conduct is a little short of current best practice. NatWest scores points for its annual Ethics Essay competition. Integrity Works helped NatWest to produce its code in 1993.

Table with 2 columns: Metric and Score. Metrics include Ethical expression (7/10), Fat-cat quotient (4/10), Financial record (4/10), Share performance (5/10), Attitude to employees (7/10), Strength of brand (6/10), Innovation (5/10), Annual report (6/10), City star rating (3/10), Future prospects (4/10), Total (8/100). Source: Integrity Works.

UK calls for software protection



Ian McCartney: support

BRITAIN is to use its presidency of the European Union to push for a European patent system for computer software. No European country gives full patent protection for software. The United States and Japan already make it relatively easy to obtain software-related patents. At a conference in London today, Ian McCartney, Minister of State at the DTI, will emphasise the Government's wish to give more support for intellectual property rights. He aims to bring the issue nearer to the top of the European Commission's agenda for action. The conference has been set up by the UK Patent Office, with Commission support. Without patent protection, software writers have to rely on copyright law. This protects the form of the software fully, but not the ideas underlying it. This can pose problems because software needs to be frequently changed and developed. The main argument against change is that the huge backlog of existing software would make it impracticable to evaluate and offer prime protection to newly written material. Proponents of patent protection point out that many US software writers file successfully for protection.

Billionaires lose £36bn over Asia

FIFTY SEVEN billionaires have lost between them \$61 billion (£36.6 billion) from seven months of turmoil in Asian markets. The collective worth of the 57 Asian tycoons has fallen from \$225 billion to about \$164 billion, at least on paper. The figures were published today in the first issue of Forbes Global Business & Finance magazine. The cover story on the plight of Asian billionaires notes that the richer they were the harder they appear to have fallen. Just ten lost on paper \$31 billion — a 39 per cent drop in their wealth. One of the richest, Lee Shau-kee, the Hong Kong property baron, has watched his net worth plummet from \$14.7 billion to \$10.1 billion in the past seven months, while Indonesian businessman Wonowidjono's wealth has dropped, according to Forbes, from \$7.2 billion last year to \$2 billion. Robert Kuok, the Malaysian billionaire, has gone from \$7 billion last year to \$4.2 billion now. The tycoons, however, are not giving in to adversity and are buying what they regard as underpriced assets for the long term.

Shipyard insurance deal investigated by Lloyd's

THE Lloyd's insurance market is investigating how an underwriter, allegedly, bypassed his firm's rules to take on high-risk insurance linked to Korean shipyards, potentially spelling steep losses for thousands of names. Syndicate 33 is one of the biggest at Lloyd's. Hiscox, the syndicate's managing agent, is seeking to cancel contracts taken out by Korean shipowners against shipyards going bankrupt. David Edwards, the underwriter, is alleged to have quoted prices on insurance risk outside his area of expertise and failed to enter the quotes into the Hiscox internal risk recording system. The unauthorised activity took place over a period of two months. Mr Edwards resigned during a disciplinary process. His direct superior, Paul Hunt, also resigned. Hiscox is seeking to limit the damage arising from the trades. David Gittins, director of regulation at Lloyd's, is in discussions with Hiscox over the apparent failure of controls. Hiscox said it is re-examining its internal processes and procedures. Lloyd's said there was no threat to the wider Lloyd's market. Equitas, the reinsurance company formed to take on billions of pounds in old Lloyd's debts, has denied reports that it is in talks with potential suitors. Speculation has centred on Dedaliaz, a London-based reinsurance company, which is looking to buy reinsurance debt.

Ushers raises £50m in US

USHERS of Trowbridge, the regional brewer, is to raise \$80 million (£50 million) in the United States through a private debt placement, enabling it to refinance its UK debts at lower interest rates. (Dominic Walsh writes). The debt is being placed with five institutional investors. In addition to repaying existing debt, the placing will be used by Ushers to finance the recently mooted share buyback. Analysts believe the move may help to revive the company's flagging share price.

Payment of Dividend

The 44th Annual General Meeting of our shareholders passed the resolution to pay a dividend for the fiscal year 1996/97 of DM 10.00 and a bonus of DM 2.00 per share of DM 50.00 par value. Payment will be effected against presentation of coupon No. 10. Payment on DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates will be effected at the rate of DM 2.40 against presentation of coupon No. 37. Both payments are subject to deduction of 26.375 % of German Withholding Tax (including solidarity surtax). United Kingdom Income Tax will be deducted at the rate of 5 % unless claims are accompanied by an affidavit. German Withholding Tax exceeding 15 % is recoverable by United Kingdom residents. The Company's United Kingdom Paying Agents will, upon request, provide the appropriate form for such recovery. Paying Agents in the United Kingdom are: SBC Warburg Dillon Reed and N.M. Rothschild & Sons. The net amount of dividend in respect of the DM 50.00 shares is payable at the rate of exchange on the day of presentation. Claims concerning DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates should be lodged at National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR, on special terms obtainable from that Office. United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in Space No. 37 provided on the back of the certificate. All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificates for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted. The net payment in respect of DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates will be made first starting at the rate of exchange on or shortly after the due date. Duisburg, March 1998 Board of Management

Advertisement for Investors in People award. Text: "INVESTORS IN PEOPLE helped Devere Hotels increase profit by 51.4% and reduce staff turnover to 10% below the national average. Call 0845 602 0250\* and Paul Dermody, the Chief Executive of Devere Hotels will tell you how." Includes logo for Investors in People and a small image of Paul Dermody.

Advertisement for The UK Index-Tracking PEP. Text: "Highest The All-Share Tracking PEP that's charged the least, has performed the best." Includes phone number 0500 11 66 22 and logo for Legal & General.



حکومت العراق

From next April, 20 million employees will benefit by paying £1.28 a week, or £66 a year less in national insurance. This is not just a tax cut for lower income Britain. It is a tax cut for middle income Britain. A tax cut for everyone in work. Whoopie!

# No income tax — a fiscal fantasy?



By coincidence, just before the Budget, I was thinking about Hong Kong, and the comparison was not flattering. There, they have no capital gains tax, no tax on dividends and no tax on interest. Corporate profits are taxed at 16.5 per cent. Now that's what I call an environment to stimulate investment and enterprise.

the achievement of a supposedly important social objective, namely the redistribution of income from rich to poor. According to this set of values, high incomes were themselves an evil needing to be cut down to size.

But the principle of redistributing income through high marginal rates of tax has all but been given up, though it still enjoys a shabby existence in sections of the Labour Party. Once you add income tax and national insurance contributions together, most employees face a marginal tax rate of 33 per cent. Higher up — all the way up to John Paul Getty, we are not far off a system in which income tax is only progressive at low incomes. If we could contemplate the demise of income tax altogether...

It raises less than you might think — about £80 billion, which is, coincidentally, almost exactly equal to spending on social security. VAT and other customs and excise duties raise more, and taken together with vehicle duties, rates, the council tax and national insurance, they raise more than the whole Inland Revenue

(£120 billion) including not only income tax but also corporation tax, inheritance tax and capital gains tax.

Still, how could the State ever do without that £80 billion? A twin-pronged approach combining reductions in the share of government spending in GDP and a redirection of the tax burden towards taxes on expenditure would do the trick. The first target for public spending reductions is debt service payments of £25 billion a year. It is not impossible to imagine this burden being halved within ten years through a

combination of lower market interest rates and the running of a sustained budget surplus. After all, Hong Kong does not have a debt interest burden, for the simple reason that it does not have any government debt.

Spending on unemployment-related benefits costs another £15 billion. A return to the levels of unemployment achieved in the 1960s would see this bill more than halved. A shift to a means-tested child benefit, combined with a tightening up on the rules for claiming disability benefit might save another £10 billion. We are nearly halfway there.

The gap could be closed by increasing indirect taxes. Extending VAT to all the currently taboo areas would raise about £25 billion. Increasing the rate of VAT from the current 17 per cent to 20 per cent would raise another £10 billion.

Where to find the rest? First, we should ask what taxes are for. Once you dump the redistribution aim, the answer is to finance public expenditure and to discourage "bads", or at least to bring the private costs of certain kinds of consumption into line with the social costs. Already this second principle is responsible for sub-

stantial amounts of revenue. Fuel and vehicle duties bring in almost as much as corporation tax. Duties on tobacco and alcohol bring in another £14 billion.

The way forward is clear — actually to do the things government spin-doctors floated in the press before the Budget to scare the middle classes so that they might subsequently breathe a collective sigh of relief, namely to discourage the use of private cars by making motoring much more expensive. The aim would be to bring the private costs of car usage up to the higher social costs. Provided it were not squandered, the resultant revenue could help to replace the revenue from income tax. Once it had gone, there would be no tax on interest or dividends and no need for the taxes on capital gains.

Think of the carnage in the accountancy and legal professions. Think of all the unemployed tax inspectors. And think of the effect on the levels of investment, enterprise and effort in this country. Of course, such thoughts will be dismissed as pure fantasy by anyone with even the merest connection with "political reality".

But that is precisely the trouble. While our leaders, and those who advise them, are trapped in their concept of political reality we are condemned to the spectacle of our Chancellors dishing up our £1.28 a week — and boasting about it. That is what I call living in a dream world.

## MCI sell-off raises fears for merger

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

EXECUTIVES at MCI have sold \$5.5 million (£9.9 million) worth of shares in the US phone group ahead of the completion of the merger with WorldCom. Wall Street is taking this as a signal that the biggest takeover in US corporate history could collapse.

Ben Roberts, the chairman, sold shares at \$47.75 last month, cashing in share options. If he had waited until the merger completion date, WorldCom would have paid him \$1 per share, or an extra \$1.3 million.

Mr Roberts has repeatedly said that the deal will close this summer, but analysts maintain that autumn is the earliest possible time. One analyst said: "Technically, this isn't insider trading. But this type of selling does look like the MCI board can foresee bigger problems than we have admitted in public. If the deal collapsed it would be a big blow. But most so far for the investors who are waiting to sell to WorldCom than for the executives who have already made a lot of money on the deal."

As speedy completion of the deal is eagerly awaited by BT,

which owns 20 per cent of MCI, a leftover from its failed merger with the US long-distance carrier, WorldCom will pay BT \$7 billion for its stake on completion.

Mr Roberts netted \$10 million from the shares he sold. Other boardroom sellers include Scott Ross, the president and chief operating officer, who earned \$2.65 million but walked away from an extra \$380,000, and Doug Maize, the finance director, who made \$700,000, foregoing \$50,000.

Bob Gabele, senior vice-president of CDA/Investnet, said the selling "reflects uncertainty about the stock's performance after the deal or that the deal may take longer than expected to consummate."

Earlier this month, the US Justice Department began an investigation of the deal. Its main concern is over WorldCom-MCI's capacity for sending and receiving electronic messages over its fibre-optic network. However, a WorldCom spokesman said: "We cannot foresee any delay at the moment. We still expect to close this summer."

## Argos pays £4.8m for checker to cut queues

By JASON NISSIS

ARGOS, the catalogue shopping chain which is fighting a £1.6 billion aggressive bid from Great Universal Stores, is to install new stock checking machines in its outlets, so customers can see if an item is in stock before they order it.

The installation of the £4.8 million system — designed and built by Torex, the technology group — is expected to cut out much of the frustration of customers queuing for ages only to find the item is out of stock.

More than 5,000 machines are to be available in the stores to improve the shopping experience, which has been described by Stuart Rose, the company's chief executive, as being "as exciting as kissing your sister". If an item is not available the checker system will tell customers when it will be available, and if any nearby stores have it in stock.



In stock? Torex's Chris Moore checks his checker

Finally, it will suggest comparable alternatives items in stock.

Torex, under its chief executive Chris Moore, has transformed itself from a tool hire group in the last two years. Later this month it is expected to announce profit growth of more than 80 per cent.

## Merlin invests £10.5m in three biotech ventures

By PAUL DURMAN

CHRIS EVANS, the biotechnology entrepreneur who founded Chiroscience and Celis International, has formed three more companies and is backing them with £10.5 million from his Merlin investment business.

Microscience, Eurogene and ReNeuron were all set up and given their initial finance by Merlin Ventures, which Dr Evans runs with Peter Keen, the former Chiroscience finance director. The three companies have each recently received more substantial backing from the Merlin Fund, the £39 million investment pool that Dr Evans raised from institutions last year.

Microscience, which has received £2.5 million from the Merlin Fund, is based around technology developed at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School. The firm hopes that so-called signature tagged mutagenesis, which has already been licensed to industry, will enable it to develop new antimicrobial vaccines and drugs, and to tackle bugs that have become resistant to existing antibiotics.

Eurogene, which has received £3 million, is specialising in heart disease, and hopes

to be able to improve the success rate of bypass surgery. Its work is based on research at University College London and at the University of Kuopio in Finland.

ReNeuron is based on work at the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London. It believes its technology may lead to treatments for a wide range of neurological disorders, including stroke, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. The Merlin Fund has invested £5 million in ReNeuron.

Dr Evans said Merlin Ventures spends hundreds of thousands of pounds forming each company, putting together a business plan, checking out patents and conducting due diligence.

With its first £2.5 million investment in Cyclacel, a Dundee firm working on cancer therapy, the Merlin Fund has now invested a total of £13 million.

Dr Evans said the Merlin team is already working on three or four more start-ups. He expects most of the Merlin Fund to be invested by the middle of next year. Dr Evans expects the successful companies to progress to a flotation within five years.

## Lobby to save AIM tax relief

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES of the 130 strategically important AIM stocks which qualify for reinvestment tax relief are set to soar this week as private investors make full use of the 14 days left before the benefit is abolished.

Prism Rail, Infotext and NSB Retail have all seen their shares reach new highs in the past week, and the rise is expected to continue until the capital gains tax relief is abolished on April 6.

The London Stock Exchange will this week lobby the Government to spare the junior exchange from the Budget changes, which many fear will put the entire future of AIM in danger.

It will argue that the abolition of the tax break may scare away investors, already wary of smaller stocks.

The number of AIM flotations has fallen to a trickle in recent months, which City advisers blame on institutional investors' concern that lack of market activity will leave share prices marooned.

Waterfall Holdings, which runs 40 snooker clubs, is to quit AIM when it completes the acquisition of Radion, its rival, which owns 14 snooker clubs and six health clubs.

Table with columns for Country, Buy, Sell, and Rate. Includes entries for Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, USA.

Main financial table with columns for 1997/98 High, Low, Mid cap, Price, Why, YTD %, and various stock symbols like AFA Systems, AMCO Corp, AND Int Pol, etc.

BT go to great lengths to help your staff work as efficiently out of the office... as in it. Why not change the way we work? BT

Freefone 0800 800 800 for our free guide, or visit our web site at www.business.bt.com/mobility







COMPANIES 46 Next overcomes problems to parade profits

# BUSINESS

FANTASY 49 Roger Bootle: Do we need income tax?

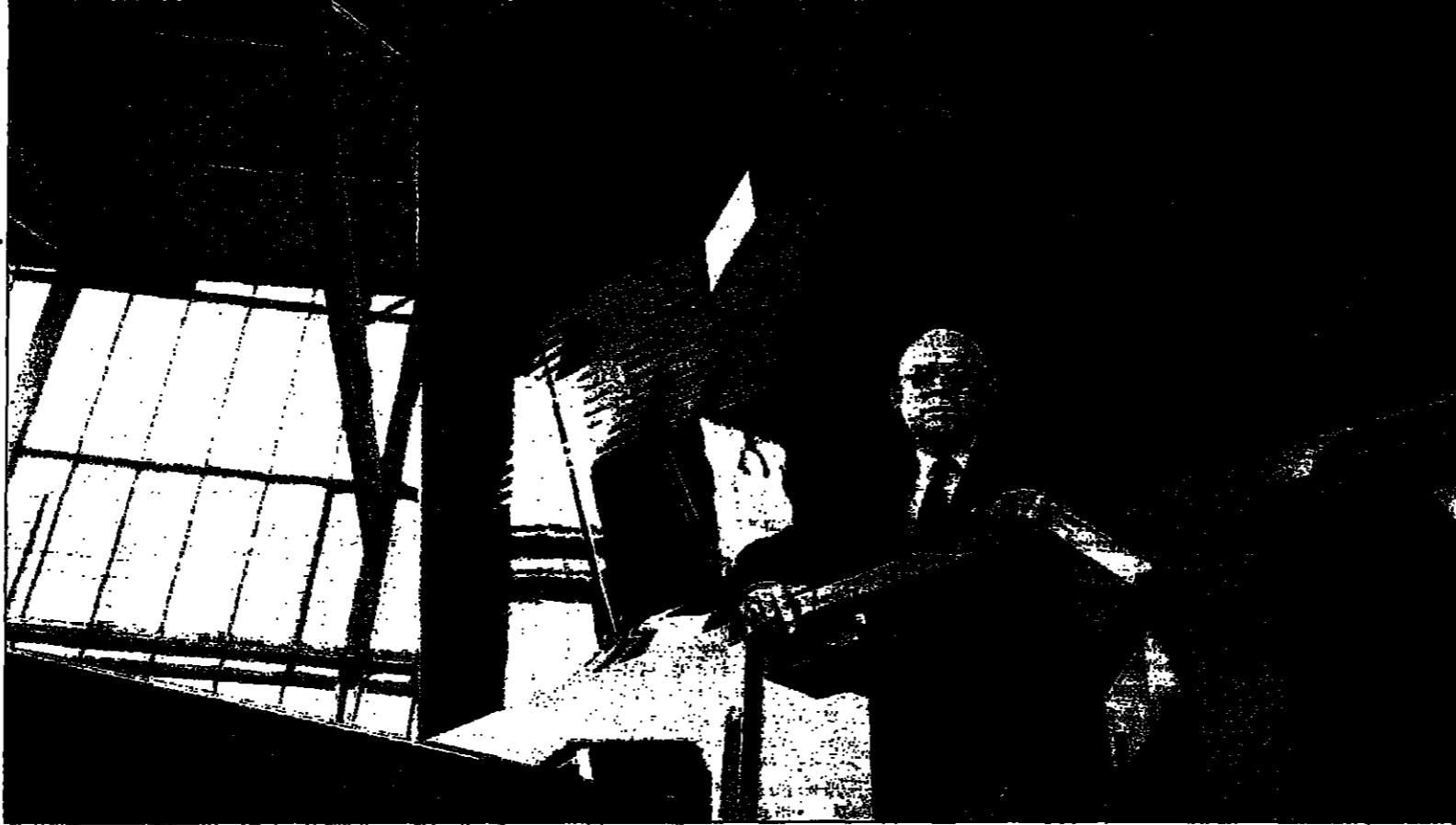


BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MARCH 23 1998

## Deal to cut oil output as prices tumble

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT FINANCIAL EDITOR  
RIVAL oil exporters have banded together in an attempt to reverse the heading fall in oil prices. Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, the biggest exporters in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, have joined with Mexico, a leading non-member, to co-ordinate a cut in output and to persuade others to join.



Wing and a prayer: Sir Michael Bishop hopes additional slots will be used to increase competition within Europe, rather than on transatlantic routes.

## Bishop calls for more European slots at Heathrow

BY JON ASHWORTH  
SIR MICHAEL BISHOP, the chairman of British Midland, is to urge MPs to press for increased access to Heathrow for European carriers — or risk deepening competition in the UK economy.

## Japan hopes stimulus package will pacify US

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO  
JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party will this week announce a 10,000 billion yen (£46 billion) package to stimulate the country's chronically stagnant economy.

This week in THE TIMES

- Tomorrow UK companies can turn the euro to their competitive advantage. Laura Sandys explains how
- Wednesday David Watts examines the plight of Indonesian President Suharto
- Thursday Graham Searjeant gives his unique insight into the nation's finances
- Friday Anatole Kaletsky's economic view

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD  
No 1360  
ACROSS  
1 Academic, unwordly retreat (5,5)  
8 Helps to rise: robbers' cry? (5,2)  
9 The first disciple: — Bolivar (3)  
10 Fighting tooth (4)  
11 Enjoyable (8)  
13 Strong leathing (6)  
15 One ordained (6)  
17 One eating all sorts of food (5)  
18 Hasty, impetuous (4)  
21 Seat, professorship (7)  
22 Emphatic type (7)  
23 Putting on best clothes: disguising (R,2)

## Orange to launch first global service

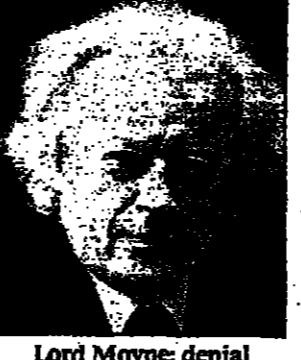
BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR  
ORANGE, the mobile-phone company, is planning to launch what it believes will be the world's first global mobile satellite telephone service in mid-September using the Iridium satellite system.

## Call to define 'Britishness' of movies

SEPARATE financial and artistic definitions of a British film will be called for by a Government-created task force on the British film industry due to report on Wednesday (Raymond Snoddy writes).

## High Court freezes £40m of Lord Moyne's assets

BY JON ASHWORTH  
LORD MOYNE, the former Jonathan Guinness, will have to live on £1,000-a-week as a result of a court order. Lawyers acting for Trustror, the Swedish investment group, have obtained a £40 million Mareva injunction, freezing the peer's assets worldwide.



Lord Moyne: denial

THE TEMPEST  
by William Shakespeare  
'Unmissable'  
David Calder's Prospero confirms him as one of the great Shakespearians...  
Richard Noble's dream-like production is fresh, lucid and authoritative'  
Also playing in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE  
TWELFTH NIGHT  
MEASURE FOR MEASURE

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP  
NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!  
The Times Two Crosswords (Book 242-249), The Times Crosswords (Book 20 Cyclic-£1.00), The Times Junior Crosswords (Book 1) is available to Times readers for just 14 (RSP£1.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.